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Security Council

Sixty-fourth year

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Monday, 6 April 2009, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Heller	(Mexico)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Ebner
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Kafando
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Costa Rica	Mr. Urbina
	Croatia	Mr. Skračić
	France	Mr. Ripert
	Japan	Mr. Takasu
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Dabbashi
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Turkey	Mr. Çorman
	Uganda	Mr. Mugoya
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United States of America	Ms. Rice
	Viet Nam	Mr. Le Luong Minh

Agenda

The question concerning Haiti

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (S/2009/129)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of April 2009, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Mr. Abdurrahman Shalgham, Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, for his service as President of the Security Council for the month of March 2009. I am sure that I speak for all members of the Council in expressing appreciation to Ambassador Shalgham for the great diplomatic skill with which he conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The question concerning Haiti

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (S/2009/129)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Peru, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in which they request to be invited to participate in the discussion of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Mérorès (Haiti) took a seat at the Council table; the representatives of the other aforementioned countries took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Hédi Annabi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend invitations under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, President of the Economic and Social Council; Mr. Albert R. Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States; Mr. Pedro Medrano, Director for the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of the World Food Programme; Ms. Yvonne Tsikata, Country Director for the Caribbean of the World Bank; Ms. Dora Currea, General Manager of the Department of the Caribbean Countries of the Inter-American Development Bank; Mr. Niky Fabiancic, Deputy Regional Director, Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme; and Ms. Corinne Delechat, Mission Chief for Haiti of the International Monetary Fund.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2009/129, containing the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. Council members also have before them photocopies of the report of the Security Council mission to Haiti, which will be issued as document S/2009/175.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Hédi Annabi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. I now give him the floor.

Mr. Annabi: I am pleased to be back in the Security Council and to join this discussion of the work of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). The wide participation in today's debate underscores the high level of international commitment to the stabilization process in Haiti. It builds upon the Security Council's visit to Haiti from 11 to 14 March and on the visit by the Secretary-General and former President Clinton that took place

on 9 and 10 March. We hope that the international community will make a further effort two weeks from now, at the 14 April conference on Haiti to be hosted by the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, D.C.

Sustained international engagement is critical to enable Haiti to take advantage of a unique moment of opportunity. The country now has its best chance in decades to break from the destructive cycles of the past and to move towards a brighter future. But it can do so only with the continued strong support of external partners. The Secretary-General has suggested that in order to consolidate Haiti's stability, progress must be made in addressing five interlinked challenges: first, political dialogue, including elections; secondly, extension of State authority; thirdly, strengthening security; fourthly, the rule of law and human rights; and fifthly, socio-economic development.

The report of the Secretary-General now before the members of the Security Council (S/2009/129) summarizes advances that have taken place in each of those areas over the past six months. In order to provide a context for today's discussion, I would like to update and supplement that analysis, focusing on recent developments, key tasks that remain and where the further assistance of the international community will be indispensable.

First, with reference to political dialogue and elections, the resolution of political differences through dialogue remains the cornerstone of advancement in all other areas. There have been some positive developments in this necessarily Haitian-led process. In the aftermath of last year's hurricanes, we witnessed a new potential for cooperation among representatives from across Haiti's political spectrum and between the various institutions of governance, the private sector and civil society. Last December, the Government and Parliament adopted for the first time a joint legislative agenda. The establishment by President Préval at the beginning of this year of a series of broad-based commissions on key national issues represents a further effort to promote dialogue and collaboration. Council members will recall that they met with the leaders of some of those commissions during their visit.

This progress, however, remains fragile. There is a risk of renewed conflict among political institutions and between the executive and legislative branches of Government. These tensions are often related to personal ambitions and fed by the scourge of corruption, which the Government is seeking to curb.

At this critical time, Haiti cannot afford the kind of discord that paralysed the country for almost five months last year. It is essential that the Haitian leadership in the executive and legislative branches, in civil society and the private sector rise to the challenge and work together constructively. The international community can and should contribute by demonstrating that it stands with those who seek collaboration and that it will hold accountable those who promote conflict and instability.

The ongoing electoral process for renewal of one third of the Senate, which can reinforce political cooperation in the longer term, has nonetheless brought some additional strains in the short term. Over the past months, we saw considerable tensions related to participation in the polls. Today, however, the process is moving ahead. We hope that the Haitian people will take full advantage of this opportunity to make their voice heard and to select leaders with the necessary ethical and professional qualities.

These elections are indispensable to permit the proper functioning of the Parliament. It is therefore essential that they take place in a climate that is free from disruption or violence. At the same time, as mandated by the Security Council, MINUSTAH is providing the necessary logistical and security support for the electoral process, in close collaboration with the Haitian authorities. I am pleased to say that, at this time, the first round appears to be broadly on track to take place on 19 April, as envisaged, although the timeline remains tight.

Secondly, as regards the extension of State authority, MINUSTAH continues to assist the Government in developing administrative capacity in areas that are related to the mandate at both the national and local levels, drawing in particular on our civil affairs officers. This is a long-term process, but some progress is being made. An integrated border management strategy is beginning to take shape, including the revision of the customs code, whose adoption features on Haiti's joint legislative agenda. That effort has been complemented by the provision of bilateral funds to create necessary infrastructure along the border. We are also providing support to local administrations in the conduct of a number of basic tasks, including budget preparation.

But it is clear that MINUSTAH's efforts can barely begin to make a difference in enabling the State administration to respond to the needs of the population. We therefore welcome the bilateral and multilateral programmes that have been launched to help build capacity in a number of ministries, and we hope that further efforts will be made along those lines. Those efforts could be facilitated through the adoption by the Government of a clear plan for strengthening public administration, drawing on existing blueprints.

The strengthening of Haiti's security structures represents a third area where there have been significant advances, but where further efforts are required. Over the past four years, based on steadily increasing collaboration between MINUSTAH and the Haitian authorities, Haiti has seen a remarkable improvement in its security situation. The dispersal of armed groups in rural areas in 2004 and 2005 and the dismantling of gangs in urban strongholds in 2006 and 2007 were followed, over the second half of last year, by increased effectiveness in curbing kidnapping, which was having a disproportionately demoralizing impact on the population.

We are building on that progress with further initiatives to promote security in border areas and have complemented the deployment of troops along the land border with the Dominican Republic and along the coast with maritime and airborne patrolling. We hope that those latest efforts will be of assistance in promoting security throughout the Haitian territory and in deterring illicit trafficking activities. At the same time, we recognize that they cannot alone represent an effective response to the problem of trafficking, which constitutes a key threat to Haiti's stability. They must be reinforced through engagement by other countries within the region that can assist by sharing information and with complementary patrolling and, as appropriate, coordinated operations.

Meanwhile, we are advancing with our programmes to strengthen Haiti's own security capability. A class of 702 Haitian police cadets graduated in February, making a total of more than 9,200 active police officers. The training of an additional 450 cadets was launched last December, and recruitment for the next promotion is ongoing. It is essential that this pace be maintained in order to reach the target envisaged in the Haitian police reform plan of 14,000 police officers by the end of 2011. We also continue to push forward with the vetting process, together with the Haitian police, in order to ensure that those who are serving have the necessary professional standards and qualifications. Bilateral assistance has been made available to help meet a number of key needs in terms of infrastructure and equipment, but a lot more is needed.

That progress is encouraging. At the same time, as was clear during the riots last spring and the hurricanes last summer, MINUSTAH's troops and police remain indispensable when a real crisis erupts. The country continues to face a number of threats, including a significant risk of civil unrest, reflecting Haiti's difficult living conditions and the continued presence on the ground of a number of potentially violent elements, including former gang members and discontented army veterans. Those threats could be activated for political or criminal motivations or to inhibit reform programmes that target corruption, smuggling and trafficking. In that context, MINUSTAH's security components are needed to promote a sense of security among the Haitian people, to deter spoilers and to spare a still vulnerable Haitian police force from unmanageable challenges or setbacks that could deal a fatal blow to its morale and credibility.

Fourth is the rule of law and human rights. In the area of justice reforms, there has been progress towards the establishment of the key supervisory body, the Superior Council of the Judiciary. The Minister of Justice announced recently that the Superior Council would soon be installed, subject to the outcome of the vetting process, which is almost complete. In the interim, a judicial inspectorate has been created within the Ministry of Justice in order to provide the necessary oversight of judges.

The 12 March opening of the School of Magistrates represented a further major development. I would like to thank the members of the Security Council for their participation in that ceremony, which offered a clear indication of the importance that they attach to the justice reform process.

As regards corrections reform, there has been some progress in training corrections staff and in the rehabilitation of prisons, but the situation in Haiti's corrections facilities remains unacceptable from the perspective of human rights and security. It is critical that that process be given continued priority by Haiti's leadership and strong bilateral support.

In the area of human rights, we are seeing historically remarkable levels of public debate and of respect for freedom of the press, as well as for civil liberties in general. We have also been encouraged by the broad interest of the Government and of civil society in a human rights approach that integrates economic and social concerns. However, limited progress has been made in the strengthening of the Office de la protection du citoyen — the office of the ombudsman — which will play a critical role in ensuring the sustainability of human rights gains.

Fifth and last is social and economic development. Socio-economic issues are not, of course, the core work of a peacekeeping operation. However, it remains clear that in Haiti, the promotion of security and development are very closely linked. The current levels of deprivation and poverty in the country are incompatible with durable stability. If we are to succeed in our efforts, it is essential that there be an improvement in people's daily lives, or at least a realistic hope of such an improvement.

In that context, we have been deeply concerned over the deterioration of the socio-economic situation in 2008. The scope of the damage wrought by last summer's hurricanes is estimated at about $1 billion, or equivalent to 15 per cent of Haiti's gross domestic product. That has now been compounded by the global financial crisis, which in February, compared to the previous February, brought a 14 per cent reduction in the remittances that constitute a lifeline for many Haitian families and represent nearly three times the figure for international assistance.

In that context, we continue to believe that assistance must be directed in three broad areas. First, we believe that continued humanitarian relief is essential. Without it, many Haitians will have little to eat, no capacity to send their children to school and no access to basic services.

Secondly, it is critical to assist with early recovery, focusing on providing jobs, while tackling urgently needed rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks that can also support longer-term development. We hope that more bilateral assistance can be provided, including with reference to the various projects that have been outlined in the post-disaster needs assessment, conducted jointly by the Government, the European Union, the World Bank and the United Nations.

Thirdly, we continue to call for longer-term development, which depends upon the regeneration of private-sector activity. The growth and poverty reduction strategy paper had already helped to identify certain key priorities of the Haitian Government for the future. Over the past few months, that has been helpfully supplemented by the work of Professor Collier, who has pointed out that Haiti offers real potential for investors, particularly in the area of garment manufacturing, taking advantage of existing advantageous trade agreements. But Professor Collier also noted that, in order to leverage that potential, certain conditions must be put in place — in particular, the enhancement of key roads and ports, the development of electricity and the adoption of certain legislative and policy measures to create a truly investment-friendly environment.

The realization of such a programme requires a renewed partnership among national authorities, who must take the necessary decisions; international actors, whose assistance is essential if the required improvements in infrastructure are to be undertaken; and the private sector, which will need to take advantage of those new opportunities. We earnestly hope that the 14 April Washington conference will facilitate agreement on such a forward-looking agenda, based on mutual commitments and accountability. At the same time, we hope that participants will be able to help the Government to bridge a short-term requirement for budget support, which amounts to some $125 million for the current fiscal year.

Finally, visitors over the past month have underlined that Haiti is at a turning point and that this is the first time in many years that the country truly appears to be poised to make a break from a past of suffering, poverty and violence and towards a path of sustainable social and economic development. We agree with that analysis. We believe that today, Haiti has a real chance to consolidate the stability that we have all worked hard to establish. But that can happen only with sustained and coordinated support for progress in all areas of stabilization, drawing on a strong partnership among Haitians, MINUSTAH, the United Nations country team and the wider international community.

This is, of course, a difficult environment in which to ask for further assistance. However, at a time when so much has been achieved, there is a compelling logic for making an additional effort — one that will

be relatively modest in absolute terms but can make a critical difference in securing the investments made to date and can prevent the major costs that would be associated with any renewed decline or disorder.

The international community has made a remarkable contribution in providing opportunity to Haiti. Our Haitian counterparts are today showing a clear determination to seize that chance. I hope that, with the support of the Security Council, that partnership may be sustained in order to enable the efforts made to date to come to fruition and to place Haiti firmly on the path towards the better future that it has sought for so long.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Mr. Annabi for his briefing.

I shall now give the floor to members of the Security Council.

Mr. Takasu (Japan): I would like to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of April. I also take this opportunity to thank Ambassador Shalgham and the Libyan delegation on their excellent work during the month of March.

I should like to begin by warmly thanking Mr. Hédi Annabi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his very comprehensive briefing this morning. I would like to express my deep appreciation to Mr. Annabi, to his colleagues in the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and also to the Government and the people of Haiti for their exceptional support and assistance during the successful Security Council mission only a few weeks ago. I think it was an eye-opening experience for many of us — including me — to have first-hand experience with the activities and to see the people of the Mission, as well as the Government and local leaders. I also believe that it demonstrated the value of Security Council missions to various places.

We welcome the fact that the security situation in Haiti has improved greatly thanks to the support of the international community and the efforts made, in particular by the military and police components of MINUSTAH. We witnessed on the ground that MINUSTAH's presence is clearly making a difference in Haiti.

At the same time, however, we need to be mindful that security in Haiti remains in a fragile state. The next presidential election, to be held in November next year, and the revision of the Constitution will be milestones in the political process on which Haiti has embarked. But they could be accompanied by political tensions or even disturbances, which we should try to contain and deal with.

Thus, the presence of MINUSTAH troops and police will continue to be as important as it has been thus far, as the Haitian National Police is not yet able to respond effectively on its own to unrest. We welcome the steady progress in the capacity-building of the National Police, which has been greatly assisted by the strong support and guidance that the Mission has been providing. However, continued technical support from MINUSTAH is clearly indispensable to achieving the target of building a strong police force of 14,000 members by 2011. Similarly, bilateral assistance and support is required in order to meet the need for equipment and facilities.

Lasting security and political stability will not be achieved solely through a military and police presence or even through the political process alone. Progress must be made on the social and economic fronts. The year 2008 was a difficult one for Haiti. Early in the year, high food prices greatly affected the country, and in August and September major hurricanes hit, devastating many parts of the country. And this occurred against the backdrop of the global financial crisis.

In order to achieve sustainable development, the Government of Haiti needs to demonstrate to its people and to the international community a clear vision of what self-development entails, as well as the will to assume ownership of such a major task. To that end, it will be necessary for the Government to attach priority to the development strategy in its overall national policy, to create that policy in consultation with international supporters and to make it an implementable strategy.

The international community, for its part, should match Haiti's efforts by extending support that enables the Haitian people to receive a peace dividend and the stability that will make it possible for them to move forward with the work of construction. The upcoming Haiti donor conference in Washington, D.C., will provide an important opportunity to reaffirm the

support for economic development. I hope that conference participants will demonstrate the depth of that support, not only by expressing political commitment, but also by pledging, quite specifically, the financial assistance that they will provide.

Food security and job creation are two of the urgent issues that we need to address. The fact that, at present, the rate of self-sufficiency in food production in Haiti is only 48 per cent, even though more than half of the working population is engaged in the agricultural sector, underscores the importance of securing sufficient food security by formulating coherent policy measures that will make it possible for the country to increase food productivity. That would also help to improve the unemployment issue and contribute to long-term development.

In that context, we are very grateful to the Secretary-General for commissioning Professor Collier to prepare his valuable recommendations. They must be translated into concrete policy measures for implementation. It is the sincere hope of my Government that coherent policy measures along the lines of those recommendations will be established by the Government of Haiti in order to achieve human security for every Haitian person.

When we consider benchmarks for MINUSTAH's presence, we will have to focus more on socio-economic development and reconstruction in order to achieve lasting stability. We should initiate a consideration process that involves all the actors and partners concerned, focusing on the factors essential to making a smooth transition from peacekeeping to the peacebuilding stage. As we enter into such a discussion, it is crucially important to bear in mind that peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts are not sequential, but overlapping. Serious peacebuilding efforts must begin while peacekeepers are present and doing appropriate work.

For that reason, steps must be taken to ensure that the eventual process of reconfiguring MINUSTAH does not, first, create a security vacuum or, secondly, lead to a reduction in the commitment and support of the international community. That can be done by assuring the people and the Government of Haiti that the international community will remain engaged in working for the country's long-term stability.

In conclusion, I would like to pay particular tribute to Mr. Annabi and his colleagues in MINUSTAH. We are very much impressed by their dedication to the cause. I would also like to thank those countries that have contributed troops, police or logistical support. They have significantly improved the security situation under very difficult circumstances.

Mr. Ripert (France) (*spoke in French*): I, too, would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on assuming the presidency of the Security Council, and to thank the Libyan presidency for the skill it demonstrated last month.

France aligns itself fully with the statement to be made later by the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union.

Sir, I would like to thank you first of all for organizing this open debate on the situation in Haiti and the work being carried out by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Beginning with all those who are working in Haiti — and I am thinking here in particular of the Member States in the region, which will deliver statements later — the international community must remain mobilized to support the efforts of the Haitian authorities to stabilize their country and to put it on the path towards sustainable development.

I would also like to pay tribute to the Secretary-General's personal work on and commitment to Haiti, particularly because, as he wrote himself a few days ago in a leading newspaper, Haiti is at a crucial stage in its history.

I would also, of course, like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Annabi, for his briefing, and express once again our full support for all his work on the ground. The recent Security Council mission to Haiti, led by Ambassador Urbina of Costa Rica, allowed us to have a clearer and more concrete picture of the achievements of MINUSTAH, particularly in the security sector, and of the challenges that Haiti continues to face.

As Mr. Annabi stressed earlier, Haiti is at a crucial stage in its history. The report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/129) shows that Haiti is enjoying the first fruits of the efforts that have been made since 2006: the re-establishment of security, the professionalization of the police force, the improvement of the transport and electricity

distribution infrastructures, growth in tax income and control of inflation.

Determined action by the Haitian authorities to follow up on that policy of stabilization and development is more than ever necessary, with the support of the international community, to meet the expectations of the people, who have already suffered a great deal, in terms of security, enhancing the rule of law and access to health care and education. In this regard, I note the very encouraging comments made earlier by the Special Representative with respect to the freedom of expression and opinion and the growing strength of the democratic legal system, which has allowed a gradual improvement in the effectiveness of efforts to counteract crime and corruption and to ensure effective protection of human rights.

The partial senatorial elections that will be held by June, with the first scheduled for 19 April, are of course critical. The proper functioning of democratic institutions depends upon them. We hope, of course, that the elections will take place in a free and transparent manner and, as Mr. Annabi said, lead to men and women taking power who are competent and committed to democracy and the rules of democracy.

However, the Government must also continue to work with all parties, as it has begun to do, on major projects that are important for the future of the country, in order to establish a common vision among all Haitians. Once again, I note the relatively positive and optimistic assessment made by Mr. Annabi.

We fully support MINUSTAH's work to help Haiti put an end to its political instability. We are aware of the successive difficulties that Haiti encountered last year, including the series of hurricanes that struck the country and whose economic and social impact was considerable. In this context, the international community's commitment, including in terms of security, is more than ever necessary in support of this process, which must be consolidated for the long term.

On this point, the international community must enhance its efforts to meet the socio-economic challenges that the country faces. That is what is at stake at the donor's conference planned for 14 April, which represents an important stage in implementing the national growth and poverty reduction strategy. The international community can rest assured that France and the European Union, which are critical partners of Haiti, will participate in the conference with renewed resolve to be heavily involved and will do so over the long term.

We support the recommendation of the Secretary-General, which was supported by the findings of the Security Council mission, to rely on a medium-term strategy to transfer, gradually and in acceptable conditions, responsibilities that are currently assumed by the international community to the Haitians themselves. That is the goal of the consolidation plan that was submitted to us in autumn. A review of progress on the various aspects and indicators of that plan will of course be essential following the discussions that we will be having on the MINUSTAH mandate. It is also essential in that regard that, under the authority of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, all institutions in the United Nations system work in a coherent fashion.

We also hope, following the Security Council mission and in the context of the review of peacekeeping operations, that we will be able to consider the political, military and police configurations of MINUSTAH. That should take place in an inclusive way, particularly with respect to police- and troop-contributing countries, in order to ensure that their views are fully taken into account.

This approach is particularly desirable since the first assessment of the police mission was carried by the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), and many lessons have been learned from the experience of MINUSTAH. We encourage the DPKO to enhance its actions here and we also believe that, in the longer term, MINUSTAH should play an even greater role with regard to security sector reform to meet such security challenges as smuggling and the traffic in drugs and weapons.

To conclude, I would like to thank the members of the Security Council for their support for the presidential statement that we have prepared with the delegations of Mexico and the United States.

Ms. Rice (United States of America): I want to begin by thanking the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Hédi Annabi, for his excellent leadership of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), and to welcome the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/129) of 6 March 2009. I also want to extend my thanks to Ambassador Mérorès, and we ask him to thank the Haitian leadership and the

representatives of the Haitian private sector and civil society for the warm reception that they extended to all of us during the Security Council's visit last month. We are also particularly pleased that former President Clinton and the Secretary-General were able to visit Haiti together, which brought additional helpful attention to the challenges and the opportunities there.

We stand at an inflection point in Haiti — a moment of real opportunity, but also one of real risk. Let me start with some of the progress that we witnessed during our visit last month. The United States salutes the work and the bravery of MINUSTAH. Thanks to its efforts and to the work of the Haitian people, progress has been made towards consolidating stability and security, including by strengthening the Haitian National Police. MINUSTAH has achieved important gains in the area of security, and we hope that its accomplishments will provide a sound basis for progress in other critical areas.

MINUSTAH's success is indeed an impressive story, but it is not the whole story. Much of Haiti's progress remains fragile, especially after the terrible difficulties of the past year. Haiti continues to face extreme hardships in the wake of the 2008 food crisis, the hurricanes and storms that struck the country and the ongoing global financial crisis. All of these factors could yet imperil Haiti's security and seriously exacerbate the poverty and privation that afflict the Haitian people.

Especially in the light of this past year's troubles, the United States is particularly encouraged by the progress Haiti has made towards the achievement of four of the five benchmarks outlined by the Secretary-General, benchmarks that have helped this Council assess progress. However, we recognize that much more must still be done in key areas. Desperate poverty, malnutrition, lack of education and other socio-economic problems continue to bedevil Haiti.

We look forward to participating actively and generously in the 14 April donor conference on Haiti, to be hosted by the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington. This gathering will provide an opportunity for partners and the Government of Haiti to help address Haiti's budget gap and move forward towards lasting recovery and development. We welcome the plan that will be presented by Prime Minister Pierre-Louis, and we believe that forms a very important basis for enhancing that partnership.

Haiti reminds us yet again that we should not view security and development as separate spheres. Indeed, they are inextricably linked. The absence of one will undermine the other. During our trip, my colleagues and I saw compelling evidence, firsthand, of how poverty and unemployment, especially among Haiti's young people, have created an environment conducive to potential civil unrest, one that could undo many of Haiti's hard-won gains.

The Secretary-General has correctly underscored the relationship between progress on security and progress in socio-economic and development efforts. The United States could not agree more. We are encouraged by the advances that have been made with the help of MINUSTAH and the bilateral donors in professionalizing the Haitian National Police, which is moving towards the goal of having 14,000 officers in its ranks by 2011. More than 9,000 have already been trained and vetted, and nearly 500 new officers will graduate by the second half of this year.

The United States will continue to work with MINUSTAH to help expand the facilities at the national police academy and create specialized leadership training there. For Haiti to be secure, it will need its police forces to stand on their own, and it will need intensified efforts to reform the justice sector as a whole, to address prison overcrowding and deepen and extend the rule of law throughout the country.

This is particularly true because of the ongoing scourge of drug trafficking, which harms Haiti and the region. My Government believes that real progress must be made here, particularly through the continued professionalization of the Haitian National Police, other stabilization efforts, assistance from Haiti's partners, including the United States, and initiatives to promote sustainable development. The United States will increase its support for the Haitian National Police's counter-narcotics efforts, which will help expand law enforcement operations throughout the country. We look forward to continuing to work with Haitian law enforcement and MINUSTAH to tackle these serious challenges.

As part of our common efforts, we urge the Government of Haiti to take advantage of the benefits that the HOPE II legislation, passed last year by the United States Congress, can bring. As the Secretary-General has noted, HOPE II opens up "a huge window of opportunity" for Haitian access to United States

markets. This programme offers Haiti a crucial chance to move beyond assistance to genuine economic growth and, above all, to achieve the job creation that can fuel sustainable development.

The United States congratulates Haitian leaders for their efforts to get their country back on its feet. We recognize the constructive political developments that have taken place since 2006, and we are particularly pleased that opposition leaders are free to express their views. The 19 April Senate elections mark one more step in Haiti's democratic development. These elections must be free, fair and inclusive. We thank MINUSTAH for its continued support of Haiti's electoral process, and we urge the Government of Haiti to intensify its efforts to promote a political dialogue in which all voices can speak and be heard.

Finally, my Government remains firmly committed to MINUSTAH and to Haiti. We urge the Haitian leadership, the United Nations, troop-contributing countries and other parties to deepen our common efforts to support this country in its fragile transition period.

As the Secretary-General rightly noted, Haiti stands at a crossroads, a turning point between risk and renewal. With continued effort from Haiti's leaders, the relentless determination of its remarkable people and enhanced support from the international community, Haiti can move towards lasting security that will sustain itself, towards democracy that grows deeper roots and towards economic progress for all. Haiti will ultimately choose its own way, but we must all do our part to help the Haitian people succeed.

Ms. Pierce (United Kingdom): As this is the first time I am speaking in the Chamber under your presidency, Mr. President, allow me to start by thanking Ambassador Dabbashi and Ambassador Shalgham for their stewardship of the Council this past month, by welcoming you, Sir, for this month and by pledging our support to you in all your endeavours.

Turning to Haiti, we welcome the most recent report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/129) and the fact that he and former President Clinton were able to visit. We are also very grateful for all the efforts from the Special Representative, Mr. Hédi Annabi, who has given us such a thorough and comprehensive briefing today.

We concur with the Secretary-General's assessment, and, I think, the emerging assessment from this Council, that there have been some very positive advances. However, sadly, overall progress has fallen short of that which we had hoped to see. In part, this can be attributed to the devastating blows dealt by the hurricanes and tropical storms of August and September 2008. We hope that, with the support of the international community, the efforts of the Government that were so seriously undermined by these calamities will be pursued with new vigour.

The installation of the new Government and the appointment of Prime Minister Pierre-Louis in September was an important step forward. It offers the potential for much-needed progress in a number of areas. We urge the Haitian authorities to seize the opportunity and to continue their work proactively and constructively to address the constitutional, legislative and budgetary issues that are currently preventing progress in key sectors. We also strongly encourage the authorities to use the expertise offered by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and other agencies on the ground to take early and concrete steps in the key areas.

As other speakers have noted, securing lasting stability in Haiti depends ultimately on socio-economic development. As the Secretary-General says in his report, the current levels of poverty are incompatible with long-term stability. Cooperation with the international community is an essential part of making progress in this area. At the same time, we do need to recognize that it is not the role of MINUSTAH to deliver development, and that the lead must therefore be taken by other actors and organizations based on a sensible division of labour, no duplication, and proper coordination.

Lasting stability does, however, depend very heavily on security, and I would like to take this opportunity to put on record our admiration for the work of the outgoing Force Commander, Major-General Dos Santos Cruz. During his time in Haiti we have seen a significant improvement in the security situation. The re-establishment of government control in former no-go areas is a particularly significant achievement.

MINUSTAH, under the Special Representative's able leadership, plays a significant role in the daily life of Haiti, and we acknowledge the Mission's support to

the efforts of the Government. For the time being, the presence of MINUSTAH remains essential to the maintenance of security and stability. But it is also our overall objective to ultimately enable the Haitian authorities to assume responsibility for their own security. We urge MINUSTAH to continue to monitor and measures its progress against the existing benchmarks. This is vital to measuring progress in Haiti overall and achieving greater mission efficiency, and it is the only way that we can sensibly and carefully plan the next step. We look forward to reviewing progress against those benchmarks in six months' time.

I would like to take this opportunity, however, to welcome the progress made in improving the capacity of the Haitian National Police. It is important, in our view, that the pace of recruitment and training is maintained and, where possible, accelerated.

The approaching Washington donor conference represents an important opportunity to underline that the international community needs to help the people of Haiti to stand on their own feet. We encourage all those involved to improve the engagement between the Haitian leadership and the international community on aid issues. Our objective will rightly be to secure a reliable flow of funding to Haiti. But it is also important that donors be coordinated and that assistance be well organized and targeted at priority sectors.

Let me conclude by repeating our thanks to Special Representative Annabi and his entire team in MINUSTAH. We express our hope that he will pass on our thanks to the team. We also fervently hope that his assessment of an imminent turning point is fulfilled. We will work in the Council and with him to help bring that about.

Mr. Mugoya (Uganda): I wish to start by thanking Mr. Hédi Annabi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), for his briefing.

Members may recall that the Security Council visited Haiti from 11 to 14 March, following the Secretary-General's visit to that country. The visit of the Security Council to Haiti was useful in enabling the Council to have an on-the-spot assessment of the situation on the ground and to appreciate the challenges being faced in that country. More so, the visit reassured the people of Haiti that the international community supports their efforts and further cemented the good working relationship between the United Nations and the people of Haiti.

On that note, we commend the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and his staff for the work done in delivering on MINUSTAH's mandates. We also commend the Government and the people of Haiti for their efforts to achieve sustainable and durable development.

We note the progress that has been made so far with regard to the security situation in Haiti. It is encouraging that that has been achieved not only by strengthening the Haitian National Police but also by improving the close working relationship between it and MINUSTAH. We therefore commend MINUSTAH, together with the Haitian National Police, for its contribution to dismantling the armed gangs responsible for much of the violence, in particular in Cité Soleil. That has significantly reduced criminal activity, such as kidnappings, and has helped to restore a degree of public confidence.

Notwithstanding that progress, my delegation is concerned about the continued threat to the overall stability of Haiti posed by organized crime and drug trafficking, which have had an adverse impact on stability, governance and development. In that regard, we urge development partners, the Group of Friends of Haiti and the international community as a whole to intensify efforts geared towards strengthening the capacity of the Government of Haiti to control its borders.

Uganda appreciates the assistance provided by the United Nations for Haiti's senatorial elections scheduled for 19 April. The printing of ballot papers and training of electoral workers, as well as the ongoing dispatch of 12,000 electoral kits to voting centres by the United Nations, are commendable. However, we are concerned about the apparent political tensions between contending parties, specifically the banning by the Provisional Electoral Council of candidates from the rebel faction Fanmi Lavalas. We call upon the authorities in Haiti to go the extra mile in order to ensure that free, fair and all-inclusive elections are held — and on time. Such elections would be a cornerstone for reconciliation and democracy. Every effort should therefore be made to take advantage of the apparent readiness of the executive branch,

parliament, political parties and civil society to engage in constructive dialogue in order to lay the foundations for Haiti's long-term stability and development.

We welcome the efforts being made by the Government of Haiti, with the support of the international community, in the areas of recovery and development and to strengthen key institutions of Government, such as strengthening the customs department in order to increase revenue collections. That improvement is increasingly generating revenue that will enable the Government of Haiti to sustain institutions and provide essential services to its people.

However, the challenges remain immense. We call upon development partners and the entire international community to support the immediate development needs of Haiti, but especially to support the longer-term development needs of the country in order to facilitate sustainable peace and development. We urge all to participate in the donor conference scheduled to be held in Washington on 13 and 14 April of this year.

The hurricanes that hit Haiti in September devastated the country and had a heavy impact on the populations. We commend MINUSTAH and the humanitarian agencies that came to the assistance of Haiti. We also commend the people and the Government of Haiti for their resilience under very difficult circumstances.

Mr. Dabbashi (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I should like to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of April. We are certain that you will conduct our work effectively. We look forward to working and cooperating with you this month.

I would also like to thank colleagues who took the floor before me for their kind words addressed to my delegation. I also wish to thank Mr. Hédi Annabi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his comprehensive and significant briefing. We commend the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for its efforts, under his leadership, to establish security in Haiti.

Haiti has long been one of the most important items on the agenda of the Security Council. It remains on the agenda because Haiti has yet to recover from conflict. The security situation continues to be fragile. The economic and social fabric has been destroyed by hurricanes and other natural disasters, which have produced enormous financial losses and affected the living conditions of most of the people of Haiti. This requires a coordinated effort by the international community to promote development and economic progress, which are crucial to stability and the building of peace in Haiti. However, that can be achieved only through a clear development strategy, to be established by the Government of Haiti and implemented with the support of its international partners.

We have taken note of positive developments and the steps taken by the Government, including its call for national reconciliation and dialogue, its efforts to expand State administration throughout the country and its joint legislative agenda for 2009. We also welcome the ongoing improvements in the security situation and the work of the Haitian National Police, as well as the decline in criminal activity, in particular kidnappings. We commend coordinated efforts by the Government and the National Police to establish a stable environment where overall security and political progress can flourish.

We agree with the Secretary-General that there have been encouraging developments, but these remain fragile and liable to be reversed. That is why we are concerned at the continuing political divisions. We call upon the Government of Haiti and all political leaders to come together, in particular with respect to their dispute on reform of the 1887 constitution, through dialogue and reconciliation, and to take the constructive path of cooperation. We hope that the first round of senatorial elections, to be held on 19 April, will be successful.

We know that the series of destructive hurricanes and tropical storms that recently struck Haiti created enormous difficulties for Haitians and added to the economic and social burden borne by the Government. We saw this during our visit to Haiti: everyone the Security Council mission met made it clear to us that security and economic development are indivisible. For that reason, all Haitian elements and Government institutions should coordinate, with the support of the international community, so that Haiti can meet the challenges it faces both in the security sphere and in the economic and social realm.

In our view, it is important that the proposals outlined by Professor Paul Collier with respect to

poverty reduction and the long-term economic recovery of Haiti be accorded due attention with a view to making economic progress. In that regard, we believe that Haiti's neighbours and the other countries of the region can play an important role, in parallel with the efforts of the international community, donor countries and the United Nations country team, in improving economic and social conditions for the people. This is closely linked with the achievement of sustainable stability in the country.

We agree with the Secretary-General that assistance will be effective only if the Haitians themselves face the long-term challenges with the same spirit and determination they have shown in the aftermath of last year's destructive hurricanes and tropical storms. We hope that the Washington donor conference will be successful and will yield the financial assistance that is needed.

Mr. Kafando (Burkina Faso) (*spoke in French*): I wish at the outset, Sir, to offer my sincere congratulations to you and your team on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of April; I assure you of our full cooperation. I wish also to congratulate Ambassador Abdurrahman Mohamed Shalgham and the entire delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on their excellent presidency last month.

My thanks also go to Mr. Hédi Annabi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, for his briefing this morning.

When the Council discussed the situation in Haiti on 12 September 2008, that country was suffering major damage caused by the hurricanes and floods of August and September. Still today, as confirmed by the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/129), the unfortunate fact is that, despite some progress, the overall situation in Haiti continues to be of concern because of the fragility of State institutions and the security system, in addition to economic problems. But it must be recognized that the overall political climate has improved considerably, even though divisions and tensions remain among political parties.

Political stability is crucial for Haiti, in particular given the major political milestones of the coming two years, including the holding of senatorial, legislative, local and presidential elections and constitutional reform. All political actors and civil society therefore have the duty to everything possible to establish a climate of peace through inclusive dialogue. To help them in that task, the Government must put in place the conditions necessary for the efficient planning of those elections, especially by ensuring security, freedom, democracy and transparency.

In the security sphere, we welcome the dismantling of a number of armed gangs and a reduction in the number of crimes, in particular kidnappings. Here, we welcome the enormous support provided by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), which has contributed to the restoration and reform of the Haitian National Police. But even in the light of these achievements, current police staffing at all levels is insufficient to maintain stability. Indeed, during its recent visit to Haiti, the Security Council observed that the Haitian National Police had insufficient qualified personnel and equipment to monitor and control the borders. This significantly reduces the effectiveness of efforts to combat the drugs trade, which is considerable. The international community, and in particular the United Nations, should provide MINUSTAH with adequate resources, enabling it to continue its programme and meet the target of 14,000 trained police officers by 2011.

The restoration of State authority, the rule of law and respect for human rights cannot be achieved without far-reaching justice system reform. We therefore encourage the Government to continue its justice system reform plan. Here, we welcome the 12 March reopening of Haiti's École de la magistrature.

On the economic, social and humanitarian situation, as confirmed by the report of the Secretary-General, the disasters of 2008 deeply affected Haiti both in human terms and in terms of the socio-economic infrastructure. This is a grave burden for a country the majority of whose population lives below the poverty line and which was in addition hit hard by unprecedented food and economic crises.

To be sure, economic recovery is first and foremost the responsibility of the Government and the people of Haiti. But it is true that this requires major financial resources that the State alone cannot provide. We therefore appeal to the international community, in particular donor countries, and to the Haitian private sector to support the Government, in particular through job creation.

The initiative to convene a high-level donor conference in Washington later this month comes at the right moment. We hope it will yield major, urgent decisions that can help Haiti address its pressing humanitarian needs and pursue economic recovery.

My delegation wishes to state its satisfaction and reaffirm its encouragement for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the personnel of MINUSTAH for the important work they are doing in Haiti, in often difficult conditions. We urge the Security Council to support them in their mission and invite the countries of the region to cooperate closely with MINUSTAH, in particular in the sphere of border control.

We thank the countries that contribute troops to MINUSTAH for their efforts and call on them to maintain their involvement in helping Haiti to establish lasting stability to the benefit of all, particularly the countries of the region. We call on all States to do their utmost to honour their pledged contributions to MINUSTAH. We also call on the Government of Haiti to enhance good governance so that the country can enjoy the confidence and support of the international community.

In conclusion, we thank the United States and Mexico for having prepared the draft presidential statement, which, of course, enjoys our full support.

Mr. Çorman (Turkey): I should like to start by congratulating you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for this month. I also congratulate the Permanent Representative of Libya on having successfully completed the March presidency of the Council.

At the outset, I would like to thank Mr. Hédi Annabi for his briefing today and for his continuous and tireless efforts for the stabilization of Haiti at the head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

Today's open debate is indeed timely, considering that the Security Council has just come back from Haiti and that the first round of partial senatorial elections will be held in two weeks. Having mentioned our trip to Haiti, I would also like to thank the Permanent Representative of Haiti for the hospitality we enjoyed in his country and the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica for having organized the Security Council mission in such an efficient manner.

Turkey attaches great importance to stability in Haiti and fully supports MINUSTAH. We have contributed to MINUSTAH since its inception, and we will soon have another group of Turkish police officers joining the group already in Haiti. These additional Turkish police officers will serve alongside the troops and police officers of other contributors in these difficult times in Haiti.

We hope that the upcoming partial senatorial elections will not have a destabilizing effect, but will make a contribution to enhancing institutional effectiveness in Haiti. As outlined in the Secretary-General's report (S/2009/129), the readiness of the Haitian political leadership to work together, especially in dealing with the aftermath of the devastating hurricanes, was a clearly encouraging sign. This state of mind should prevail not only in times of natural catastrophe, but also in trying to solve the daily problems of the Haitians.

In that context, the United Nations, and MINUSTAH in particular, should remain vigilant, as we witnessed during our stay that the underlying causes of instability in Haiti — extreme poverty and the precarious socio-economic environment — are unfortunately still prevalent. We therefore join in the Secretary-General's call to the Haitian leadership and people to maintain the spirit of consensus and cooperation, as well as the political collaboration and dialogue shown after the hurricanes.

In this sense, the fairness, transparency and inclusiveness of the upcoming senatorial elections, as well as of State mechanisms in general, will be of great importance. On the other hand, the international community and MINUSTAH should keep helping and supporting Haiti in these endeavours. In this regard, the donor conference to be held in Washington, D.C., will be of outmost importance in showing the determination of the international community to assist Haiti, and will certainly help MINUSTAH to carry out its duties.

The progress achieved by the Haitian National Police in fully assuming its responsibilities, the post-election political climate and any eventual improvement in the socio-economic situation could, among other parameters, guide our future assessment of the gradual drawdown of MINUSTAH. Meanwhile, beyond any conceptual debate about the definition of the nature of its mandate, MINUSTAH should definitely remain in Haiti for the foreseeable future.

Mr. Skračić (Croatia): Croatia would like to join others in thanking the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Hédi Annabi, for his briefing and insightful comments. Allow me from the outset to take this opportunity to commend both Mr. Annabi and the civil and military components of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) on the tremendous work they have undertaken in the overall stabilization of Haiti.

I would also like to welcome the presence of the Permanent Representative of Haiti and thank him and his Government for the hospitality provided to Council members during our recent visit to Haiti, headed by Ambassador Jorge Urbina of Costa Rica.

Croatia has aligned itself with the statement to be made later by the representative of the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union.

Croatia believes that political stability in Haiti is a prerequisite for any long-lasting solution in that country. When we last met here to discuss this issue in October 2008, we welcomed the formation of a new Haitian Government under the strong leadership of Prime Minister Michèle Duvivier Pierre-Louis, who, together with President Préval, was immediately set the difficult task of trying to bridge the gap between the executive and legislative branches. It was encouraging that, during the Council's visit to Haiti last month, many interlocutors in the Government and the Parliament, as well as in civil society and the private sector, expressed genuine willingness to overcome existing divisions in order to work on issues of crucial importance to the future of the country. We welcome that encouraging sign of readiness to work together for the common good, especially on those issues of indisputable importance to Haiti, such as customs and policing, the strengthening of the rule of law, constitutional reform, education, socio-economic development and investment.

The first real litmus test for the political cohesiveness of Haiti will come in a few short days' time with the 19 April elections for one third of the country's Senate. Despite the short-term risk of further political tension, it is our understanding that these senatorial elections will be of crucial importance to any planned discussions on constitutional reform and needed improvements to Haiti's democratic institutions, since without the elections of those senators the Senate will continue to lack the numbers required for successfully promulgating the required reforms. The senatorial elections are also important if the timetable for further senatorial and other elections in the country, scheduled for 2009, is to be kept. We welcome the readiness of the Government and the Provisional Electoral Council to fulfil that goal, as well as the Electoral Council's commitment to ensuring that all elections are free, fair, inclusive and held on time.

Naturally, political stability goes hand in hand with physical security. We are encouraged by the steady recruitment and strengthening professionalism of the Haitian National Police (HNP), whose numbers have now increased to just over 9,000 officers, constituting two thirds of the 14,000 officers foreseen to be recruited by 2011. While these officers may not yet be in a position by themselves to face the many challenges to Haiti's stability, for which they have the able and robust support of MINUSTAH, we do believe that they are on the right track to achieving just that. Strengthened public confidence in the HNP is also a good sign. We hope that, with MINUSTAH's assistance, the HNP will be better able to address such burning issues as drug trafficking and organized crime, including kidnappings, which are recognized threats to Haiti's stability and development.

That also holds true for the work that needs to be done on effectively managing and controlling Haiti's borders in general, which seriously lack even the most basic infrastructure and equipment. Regional partners could contribute to greater stability in this area by complementing the Mission's enhanced land and maritime patrolling duties with more bilateral border cooperation. More importantly, the next six months will serve as an important test as to whether the Haitian authorities have met prerequisite stabilization benchmarks prior to the expiration of the Mission's current mandate in October.

Judicial reform is another important step in strengthening the rule of law in Haiti, which in turn is a requirement for socio-economic development. Croatia welcomes the inauguration of the School of Magistrates on 12 March, which we had the honour to witness. We look forward to the successful implementation of the national plan for justice reform, as well as the speedy establishment of the Superior Council of the Judiciary. Here, Croatia also believes that the continuing support of MINUSTAH towards strengthening administrative and Government

capacities to ensure further Government reform efforts is vital to the long-term stability of Haiti.

One of the most important tasks remaining before the Government of Haiti is socio-economic development. The reduction of poverty, the promotion of development and food security, the environment and job creation are all national priorities. While there is broad consensus among national stakeholders, including in the private sector, that the Government should take the lead in promoting these priorities, we regret that the Government has yet to produce a focused action plan outlining the country's priorities in this regard.

Taking in the lessons from the devastating hurricanes of 2008 and the fragile stability of Haiti, where one third of the population is still dependant on emergency aid, we sincerely hope that the Government will take this into consideration so that the gains being made towards consolidation on the security front will not be jeopardized by lack of progress in socio-economic development or by renewed natural disasters.

Finally, we hope that international assistance for Haiti, including at the upcoming donor conference planned in Washington, D.C., will make a difference for Haiti's future by addressing possible shortfalls so that the pitfalls of destabilization in the country can be avoided. We welcome the recent visit by the Secretary-General and former United States President Clinton in order to throw the spotlight on Haiti's needs and to demonstrate the international community's solidarity.

The role of the donor community is of particular importance, given the extremely worrisome economic and social statistics in Haiti, as personified by the 3 million people threatened with food insecurity. It is our hope that the international response will lead to the establishment of a genuine and coherent compact geared towards developmental projects and investments that will carefully balance the essence of national ownership with an integrated stabilization process.

The Haitian Government, for its part, needs to seize on this opportunity by continuing to embrace a collaborative and inclusive approach in steering its country towards long-term economic security. The Government needs to support international partners by removing obstacles to private investment, including, but not limited to, establishing an interministerial committee on land management, drafting a new law on co-ownership and identifying State-owned land for the establishment of possible export zones.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): First, Sir, allow me to congratulate you on acceding to the important functions of President of the Security Council. I would also like to thank the delegation of Libya for its effective work in the Chair last month. We wish to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Hédi Annabi, for the substantive briefing on recent events in Haiti and for presenting the Secretary-General's report on the work of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) (S/2009/129). We agree with the basic assessment and the recommendations contained in the report.

The year 2008 was one of serious ordeals for the Haitian people. There were hunger riots, which were followed by a heightened Government crisis. There were destructive tropical storms that claimed the lives of some 800 people and caused great economic losses. In total, around 800,000 people suffered from natural disasters.

The destructive global crisis has aggravated an already difficult socio-economic situation for Haitian people. In March this year a Security Council mission went to Haiti. Its purpose was to express support to the people and Government of that country in overcoming the challenges facing them and also to reassert the willingness of the international community to continue providing assistance to the Haitian people in terms of establishing peace and security. We commend also the recent visit to Haiti by the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, accompanied by the former President of the United States, Mr. Bill Clinton.

It is important that the people of Haiti do everything possible to achieve national unity and reconciliation and have a broad political dialogue establishing effective cooperation between all branches of government. We support the combined plan of progress indicators prepared by the Secretary-General for Haiti for the period 2008 to 2011. We are convinced that the implementation of that plan will facilitate gradual progress in working on the priority areas for Haiti.

We express our support for MINUSTAH, which is playing an important role in supporting law and order in the country. United Nations peacekeepers helped re-establish control in Haiti during the unrest in April

and also provided comprehensive support to Haitian people in mitigating the consequences of the hurricanes. Here, we wish to express to the Head of MINUSTAH, Mr. Hédi Annabi, and all his staff our gratitude for their professionalism and selfless efforts in providing help to Haiti.

We should note the good degree of cooperation being established between the Mission and the law enforcement bodies in the country. United Nations peacekeepers and Haitian police officers are working closely together in protecting maritime and land borders and in fighting criminal groups. It is our hope that States of that region will support Haiti in dealing with and counteracting cross-border crime. Urgent measures must now taken to improve the situation with regard to human rights, fight corruption and reform the justice and corrections system.

One important element in the work of MINUSTAH is to help Haiti to re-establish and reform security bodies. We hope that the planned gradual increase in the staff levels in the National Police will make it possible to begin the gradual transfer of responsibility to Haitian police. The main responsibility for establishing peace and security in Haiti lies with the country's Government and people. However, they continue to need international assistance. Therefore, we supported the extension of MINUSTAH's mandate until October 2009. The MINUSTAH police component includes Russian officers and citizens.

We welcome the considerable contribution of regional organizations of Latin America and countries of the Caribbean in providing comprehensive support to the Haitian people. We consider the high-level donor conference for Haiti, planned for Washington on 14 April, to be very important. The Russian Federation will continue to support the people and Government of Haiti in building an independent, stable and democratic State.

Mr. Le Luong Minh (Viet Nam): Allow me first of all, Mr. President, on behalf of my delegation, to extend to you and the Mexican delegation our congratulations on your assumption of the presidency of the Council this month. You can rest assured of my delegation's full cooperation. I also wish to extend warm congratulations to Ambassador Dabbashi and Ambassador Shalgham and the Libyan delegation for effectively leading the work of the Council last month.

I join others in extending to the Government of Haiti our deep gratitude for the cooperation and hospitality offered the Council mission in March.

I thank the Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Mr. Hédi Annabi, for his detailed briefing before the Council today. The report on the recent Security Council mission to Haiti and the report of the Secretary-General on MINUSTAH (S/2009/129) present a comprehensive picture of the situation on the ground.

My delegation is encouraged by incremental advances in four of the five benchmarks that are significant parts of a sine qua non for the achievement of political stability and security in Haiti. We note with appreciation indications of renewed readiness among the country's political leaders to work together to address a series of consequences of the four devastating hurricanes, which are being aggravated by the global food and financial crisis and, more recently, by re-ignited tensions related to the upcoming partial senatorial elections.

However, without social and economic development, the progress thus far recorded in the four benchmarks will remain fragile. It is imperative for the Haitian Government, in coordination with MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team, to act simultaneously on all political, security and socio-economic fronts.

On the political and security front, there is an urgent need, on the one hand, to promote national consensus to ensure stability and, on the other, to continue to move forward with programmes on security sector reform and institutional capacity-building. The violence in Port-au-Prince and some other cities last April and the increased trafficking in drugs and weapons throughout the country clearly show that the Haitian National Police must be further reinforced if they are to be capable of maintaining public order and responding to threats to the country's stability and security.

In the socio-economic field, consequences of the natural catastrophes that hit the country severely in 2008, coupled with inherent economic problems, have not only worsened the already dire economic conditions for a large majority of Haitians, but have also hindered the full implementation of the Government's strategy and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. At this critical

juncture, we hold that the full engagement of the Haitian leadership and people and the execution of a sound and comprehensive socio-economic strategy which seeks to mobilize domestic resources, generate growth, create employment, reduce poverty and improve living conditions are of paramount importance to Haiti.

We welcome the efforts undertaken by the Core Group to continue to support development projects in Haiti through bilateral and multilateral partnerships. We commend the continued involvement of regional and subregional stakeholders, such as the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Community, in assisting Haiti to stimulate its economy and achieve long-term security. We appreciate the initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank to convene an international donor conference for Haiti this month in Washington, D.C., and look forward to the success of the event.

At the same time, we wish to emphasize that, in seeking to ensure Haiti's durable peace, security, stability and sustainable development, international involvement in Haiti can be successful only when it has full Haitian engagement at all stages of the process with a view to ensuring that, finally and soon Haitians, will be able to run their own country.

In conclusion, we recognize the enduring efforts of the MINUSTAH leadership and staff to provide extensive assistance to the Haitian authorities in many areas ranging from institutional support, the strengthening of the State, border management and the rule of law to humanitarian relief and development activities. We support the Secretary-General's recommendation that, while the Haitian National Police is still developing the capacity to better its performance, MINUSTAH should continue to play a critical role in helping maintain stability and security in Haiti as well as in the country's political reconciliation process.

Mr. Ebner (Austria): Let me join others in congratulating you, Sir, on assuming the Security Council presidency and in thanking the Libyan presidency for the month of the March for the work done.

We thank Mr. Hédi Annabi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his detailed briefing and his mission's ongoing efforts to contribute to peace and stability in Haiti. Austria wishes to align itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of the Czech Republic on behalf of the European Union.

Austria commends the progress made in terms of the political situation following the successful organization of presidential elections and the establishment of Haiti's Government in 2006. Significant advances have been made in the fields of political dialogue as well as the extension of State authority. In order to further those positive developments, it remains vital for the Government to continue its dialogue with all relevant actors, including political parties, the private sector as well as civil society.

Austria welcomes the significant improvements made in the rule of law sector. Due to the important role played by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the gradual strengthening of the Haitian National Police, security has improved throughout Haiti. That coordination has greatly contributed to the decline in violence and criminal activity in the country. Austria therefore believes that the enhancement and continued vetting of the Haitian National Police remain key prerequisites for Haiti's stability and security.

We are pleased to note the progress made in the organization of the judiciary through the implementation of respective legal instruments, yet further advancement of stability in Haiti will also depend on promoting the other pillars of the rule of law system. We are concerned about the challenges faced by the Haitian judiciary in conducting and completing proceedings in an expeditious manner. That has resulted in a dramatic rise in the prison population under very difficult conditions. We welcome the launch of the working group on the reform of the judiciary and hope that it will help to accelerate the judicial reform process.

With regard to juvenile justice, more reform efforts are needed. Austria has been actively involved in the elaboration of a juvenile law code, which is a prerequisite for a comprehensive child protection system, and encourages the Haitian Government to further continue its work in that regard.

Another element of vital importance to further stabilize Haiti's political situation and to improve the functioning of its democratic institutions will be constitutional reform, which should bring about better

governance in Haiti. We recognize the tight schedule that Haiti faces and encourage the country's political leaders to achieve the necessary consensus.

In that context, the successful holding of the upcoming elections for the renewal of one third of the Senate is of great importance and a prerequisite for the necessary constitutional reform. Every effort must be taken to ensure that the election process be free, fair and inclusive.

The economic and social situation in Haiti remains precarious due to the devastation caused by last year's hurricanes and the global economic crisis. Daily living conditions have deteriorated. Poverty and food security remain issues of great concern. In that respect, the adoption of agricultural policies aimed at boosting production and continued efforts to implement a reconstruction and development strategy will constitute significant contributions towards ameliorating the socio-economic climate in Haiti.

Austria believes that regional cooperation and partnership contribute substantively to the effectiveness of MINUSTAH. In that context, Austria welcomes the strong Latin American and Caribbean participation and ownership in MINUSTAH. Through the engagement of regional organizations, such as the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Community, Haiti's integration into the region is ensured. The substantial progress achieved by MINUSTAH with regard to the security situation in Haiti underlines the benefits to peacekeeping drawn from troop and police contributions by regional actors.

Finally, let me stress the importance of efficiently using the momentum for further positive development in Haiti. On his recent visit to Haiti, the Secretary-General underlined that Haiti and the international community were presented with a window of opportunity to enhance the situation in the country. In that regard, the upcoming international donor conference in Washington, D.C. is an opportunity for Haiti to gain access to supplementary funds in order to continue its peace and stabilization process.

Mr. Liu Zhenmin (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Chinese delegation congratulates the Mexican delegation on its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for April and commends the Libyan delegation for its outstanding work last month. We thank Mr. Hédi Annabi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for his briefing and also welcome the 6 March 2009 report (S/2009/129) of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

We note that there has been some general improvement in the security situation on the ground and that some progress has been made in implementing the five benchmarks for the consolidation of stability process in Haiti. However, as pointed out in the report of the Secretary-General and the report of the Security Council mission to Haiti, the situation remains fragile. Such problems as poverty, unemployment and food insecurity still jeopardize achieving lasting stability in the country.

We hope that the Haitian Government, with the assistance of the international community, will enhance its capacity through measures such as restructuring national institutions, enhancing police capacity and border control, developing legislation, promoting judicial reform and prison management and making greater efforts to fight corruption. To that end, the Haitian Government, Parliament, the political parties, the private sector and civil society should intensify political dialogue and coordination among themselves to strive for long-term stability and development.

We call on all parties in Haiti to demonstrate the political will to ensure that the upcoming senatorial elections are free, fair and inclusive. Over the years, MINUSTAH has played a crucial role in guaranteeing stability in the country and we will continue to support the Mission. To achieve lasting security and stability in Haiti, we must rely first and foremost on the Government and the people of Haiti. We also encourage the international community to continue to support Haiti in achieving national reconstruction and socio-economic development. We look forward to the positive outcome of the Washington donor conference, to be held on 14 April.

Mr. Urbina (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): In taking the floor for the first time at a Council meeting under your presidency, Sir, I would like to congratulate you and your delegation. I am sure that your abilities and leadership will ensure the necessary guidance for the success of our work. I also thank Ambassador Shalgham, Ambassador Dabbashi and the delegation of Libya for their commendable work in the Council presidency for the month of March. I welcome the presence among us of the Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Ambassador

Ramdin, and of Ambassador Mérorès, the Permanent Representative of Haiti.

I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) (S/2009/129) and his Special Representative, our friend Hédi Annabi, whom I thank for his work as Head of MINUASTAH and ask to convey our gratitude to the whole Mission. I would also like to thank him for his support during the Council's visit to Haiti.

My delegation believes that Haiti offers a significant opportunity for success and a valuable chance to learn for the United Nations. It is a novel and complex case on account of the challenges that it poses and the tasks that it entails. As a result of the growing number of peacekeeping operations, the limited economic and human resources available and the complex multidimensional challenges that we face, the Assembly, the Secretary-General and this Council have been discussing peacekeeping operations. In that context, Haiti emerges as a bridge that should help us to better understand the role of the international community in building a world free from want and also free from fear.

My delegation believes that MINUSTAH is doing all that is necessary to help Haiti in its struggle for stability and economic and social development. But, in our opinion, the Government of Haiti and the Stabilization Mission do not seem to be combining actions in such a way as to guarantee the sustainability of the progress achieved. And the Council knows full well that actions of the international community that have not been sustainable in the past have time and time again forced Haiti to return to battles considered already won.

How can we not acknowledge the significant progress in security? Who could deny the importance of improving control of a territory used by drug traffickers, a vulnerable border or territorial waters used for illegal purposes? How can we deny the value of institutional development in administering justice? Who could not be aware of the beneficial work to reduce the risks and to increase the ability to deal with natural disasters? How can we object to the importance of legislation and robust electoral institutions that guarantee the vote, if we aspire to a political democracy?

I could continue with a long list of questions that justify everything that is being done in Haiti with the assistance of MINUSTAH, but we believe that the fundamental, and most important, questions still have not been definitively answered. How much of what has been achieved can be preserved if international cooperation is reduced? Will the achievements in security be maintained? Will the Haitian Government be able to keep a 14,000-strong police force properly equipped and free from corruption? Who will build the necessary infrastructure for the justice institutions? Where will the salaries and equipment necessary for its operation come from without international assistance? Could Haiti organize the eight electoral processes that its laws require in the next thirty-six months?

We believe that the problem of sustaining what has been achieved and what is being built is the major challenge that we, the international community and Haiti, face together. The lack of economic and social development is still the greatest challenge of the Haitian society and one where the assistance of the international community has brought about only very limited progress. Even though it is true that there have been positive growth rates in recent years, it is also true that they were limited. A society as poor as Haiti's should grow at significantly higher rates.

Costa Rica believes that the ultimate responsibility for sustainable peace and development lies with the Haitian people and their political, economic and cultural leaders. They are at the vanguard that has the primary obligation to lead the whole nation to higher levels of progress. The Government of Haiti, under the leadership of President Préval and Prime Minister Pierre-Louis, the parliamentary authorities and the political parties must comply with their responsibilities in building a political and institutional environment that fosters modernization and development. The Haitian political system cannot continue to be the factor that limits and delays the country's progress. All political actors, including civil society, have endorsed their commitment to the process that Haiti is undergoing today.

With the support of the international community, the Haitian State must move forward in providing basic services, in particular health and education, as well as environmental rehabilitation. We await swift institutional reform and the simplification of a costly electoral calendar that is also a destabilizing factor. We

trust that soon the laws will be reformed to facilitate the participation of the valuable Haitian diaspora in the development of their country and to allow for a more dynamic role for foreign investment in Haiti.

Development in Haiti also depends on economic actors. With the necessary conditions for investment, Haitian entrepreneurs — those who live in the country and those who maintain links with their native land — must embark on the path to economic modernization. Agriculture, the basis of the Haitian economy today, must overcome its stagnation and very low levels of productivity, moving towards the goal of food security. A national development strategy for human capital is needed. The young and abundant work force needs training and employment before it falls into despair and fuels instability in the country once again.

Next week's donor conference must be firmly focused on economic and social development and on ensuring the sustainability of the progress made. In Haiti today, there are all the ingredients for success and learning. For the Haitian people, the international community's assistance is an opportunity to overcome old ills that have hampered their development. For the international community, Haiti is an opportunity to learn to work on the many aspects of complex situations, making sustainable peace and development possible for the many millions of human beings still living in despair throughout the world.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I shall now make a statement in my capacity as Permanent Representative of Mexico.

I thank Mr. Hédi Annabi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, for introducing the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/129). My delegation wishes to express its appreciation for his commendable work as head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and to thank him for his very valuable observations today.

We welcome the presence of our colleague Ambassador Léo Mérorès, Permanent Representative of Haiti. In addition, I welcome the representatives of international institutions, bodies and agencies of the system, whose work is extremely important for Haiti's present and future: the Economic and Social Council, the Organization of American States, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Inter-American Development Bank, whose representatives are joining us today.

For my country, this debate is particularly important, as it reflects the Security Council's clear commitment to the political stability, reconstruction and development of Haiti. That country is a clear example of the vital comprehensive attention that should be given to many of the crisis situations on our agenda, which go beyond the strict notion of maintaining international peace and security. Given the unfavourable global environment, they are crisis situations to which we must become accustomed.

Mexico welcomes the international community's increasing attention to the situation in Haiti. That was demonstrated by the recent visits of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the Security Council mission to renew the Organization's commitment to and support for the stability of the country. We are grateful for the support received on that occasion from Haitian authorities and institutions and from Haitian society in general.

We hope that this debate will truly help to promote greater interest and commitment on the part of the international community at the Washington donor conference to be held on 14 April, which will be a crucial event for the country's future.

Mexico welcomes the progress made in Haiti in such areas as the political-electoral sphere, institutional strengthening, security, the rule of law and human rights. Nevertheless, we acknowledge that that progress is still fragile and that its sustainability depends largely on progress regarding the socio-economic situation of the Haitian people.

Like other delegations, we urge the Government and the society of Haiti to make every effort to ensure that the forthcoming electoral process to fill vacant Senate seats, to be carried out on 19 April, will be a democratic, participatory and inclusive exercise. The assistance of MINUSTAH will be decisive in attaining that objective. To support the holding of those elections, my country recently delivered to Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council electoral material for organizing and developing the elections — ballot boxes, booths and office furniture — which will be distributed at the voting centres established in the 17 regional departments.

Mexico believes that a priority task for MINUSTAH is to train the Haitian National Police. That is a crucial factor if we are to foster an atmosphere of security for the country's population and guarantee stability throughout the national territory. That is why Mexico welcomes the fact that such training is in keeping with the objectives set by the Mission. Likewise, my country is pleased to have been able to contribute to the strengthening of the Haitian Police through anti-kidnapping training programmes.

Haiti's economic and social situation requires the cooperation of the international community as never before. The efforts made to date, both bilaterally and by the donor community through various multilateral forums, have fallen short in contributing to a long-term solution to the problems related to the country's growth and social development.

Therefore, it is urgent that a new alliance be forged between Haiti and the international community. The new arrangement must be based on mutual commitments. On the one hand, national institutions must guarantee to the Haitian people access to basic services, to the rule of law and to democratic governance; on the other, the international community must respond more decisively, both in terms of emergency and humanitarian aid and in terms of cooperation, to meet the enormous needs of the Haitian people.

The Government of Mexico will, to the best of its abilities, decisively join in efforts to help strengthen the health, energy, security, education and agriculture sectors. In addition, we will enhance our humanitarian aid programmes by dispatching medicine and food. I am pleased to announce the Government of Mexico's decision to create the Mexico-Haiti Fund in order to resolve the implementation of bilateral technical cooperation and humanitarian aid projects, which we will explain in detail at the donor conference to be held in Washington on 14 April.

Finally, I should like to acknowledge the countries — many of which are represented here today — that have actively contributed to the well-being of the Haitian people. I appeal to the international community to continue to support peace, security and development in Haiti.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I call on Ms Sylvie Lucas, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg, who will speak in her capacity as President of the Economic and Social Council.

Ms. Lucas (*spoke in French*): I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to participate, in my capacity as President of the Economic and Social Council, in this Security Council debate on Haiti.

As has already been said several times this morning, Haiti is at a crucial moment. Since the new Government came to power, some progress has been made: public security is being better guaranteed; considerable efforts are being made to establish administrations and institutions that can strengthen the rule of law; and the country is embarking on the path of effective governance in order to combat poverty and mobilize the country's human potential. However, 2008, with its food and fuel crises and its hurricanes and tropical storms, seriously affected the country, which experienced a decline of 15 per cent — or nearly $900 million — in its gross domestic product.

How, in that context, can we not fear a new destabilization and a resurgence of political violence? Indeed, the correlations between socio-economic development and political stability need no further demonstration. Only the implementation of a reconstruction and development strategy by the Haitian authorities, with the strong support of the donor community, will allow us to make the stability long-lasting. It is therefore vital that the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council work together to support that country in meeting these challenges.

Haiti has been on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council for 10 years. Its Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, established in 1999 to draft recommendations for the long-term development of Haiti, was relaunched in November 2004. In its most recent report to the States members of the Economic and Social Council in July 2008, the Ad Hoc Advisory Group noted the economic, social and political instability in Haiti and highlighted the difficulties related to the food and fuel crises that had severely affected the country. It stressed the importance for social and economic stability of jumpstarting the economy, creating jobs, promoting rural development and providing the neediest categories of the population with food and basic services free of charge.

Those recommendations are still valid. It is specifically the progress previously made in these key areas that has been seriously undermined by the crises and natural disasters that took place in 2008, further exacerbating the living conditions of many Haitians.

The Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti proposed three groups of recommendations in particular to improve the economic and social situation in Haiti and to enhance the impact of development aid. Amongst these recommendations, we would mention, first, improved development planning and better coordination of international assistance. Donors and partners for Haiti's development should further adjust their programmes to the facts on the ground and align their support with the objectives and strategies formulated by the Haitian authorities, thereby contributing to enhancing national capacities.

In this context, it is urgent and necessary that the donor conference to take place in Washington on 14 April mobilize the international community on behalf of Haiti and contribute to the short-, medium- and long-term development of the country.

The second group of recommendations pertains to capacity-building for Haitian institutions. The importance of stepping up institutional reforms, particularly in the area of justice and the rule of law, as well as in the area of customs and public administration in general, was stressed.

The third group of recommendations focuses on an improved use of what the Group calls the Haitian and international economic and social development levers. It recommends further involvement of the private sector to pull Haiti out of poverty by creating jobs in the structured sector. The Group also insists on the contribution that the Haitian diaspora could make to the development of the country, not only through remittances, but also through its technical skills and knowledge. For their part, donors are called on to contribute to the implementation of the strategy developed within the United Nations system in the short and medium terms.

At its July session, the Economic and Social Council will consider, within the framework of its annual ministerial review, the theme entitled "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health". In this context, it is important to recall that access to health care in Haiti remains very limited and that the inadequacies in terms of public health, and more generally in terms of basic services, are an obstacle to efforts being made to ensure development and growth.

Bearing mind the stabilizing effect of lasting economic and social development, the international community has the obligation to work in cooperation with the Haitian authorities to develop the country and to work with them over the long term. The Economic and Social Council, particularly through its Ad Hoc Advisory Group, will visit Haiti in May and will continue to be committed in this process and to assist the country.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to Mr. Albert Ramdin, Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States.

Mr. Ramdin: First of all, I thank you and the Security Council, Mr. President, for the opportunity provided to the Organization of American States (OAS) to speak at this important meeting on developments in Haiti. Mexico's commitment is a long-standing one, and we thank you very much, as well as other Member States and Permanent Observers of the Organization, for the assistance provided to the OAS over the past year to facilitate our work in Haiti.

This invitation from the Security Council also reaffirms the ongoing strong collaboration between the United Nations and the secretariat of the Organization of American States on the ground in Haiti. Allow me at this point to congratulate Mr. Hédi Annabi on the leadership he has demonstrated in support of Haiti and of the many missions the OAS leadership and the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States have undertaken in the country.

The Republic of Haiti, as we have heard this morning, is at a unique and important juncture in its history. We believe that, since the presidential elections in 2006, Haiti, through the inclusive approach adopted by President René Garcia Préval, has created a relatively stable political environment, and through the efforts of the Haitian National Police and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), has achieved an improved security environment and has been able to develop a social and economic programme for reconstruction, among other positive developments. At the same time, having said this, we must recognize that challenges remain, as ably outlined by the Special Representative this morning.

These important developments, combined with the historic high degree of international and hemispheric solidarity and support, provide, in our view, an appropriate foundation for starting a process of job creation, production, investment and income generation. Whereas in the past the focus has been on the strengthening and maintenance of democracy, the electoral process and stable governance, we believe that the time has come to redirect our collective efforts, with the assistance of the domestic and international private sectors, to create economic opportunities through short-term initiatives and, at the same time, lay the foundations for a structural path of growth and development through investments in education, health, the agricultural sector and natural disaster risk mitigation and risk reduction.

The Organization of American States, based on the priorities established by the Government of Haiti, will continue to work in the area of civil registry, especially the strengthening of the electoral process through the provision of national voter identity cards to more than 95 per cent of the adult population. Through this process, we will lay the foundation for the first-ever modern civil registry in Haiti. We will also continue to support the Provisional Electoral Council during the upcoming partial senatorial elections and in its transformation into a permanent electoral council. We will continue the trade capacity-building that we have started, support recent development and take initiatives in the area of human rights, especially in favour of disabled persons. We will also support the Haitian authorities in terms of the request made by President Préval for constitutional reform, and possibly in specific areas of the reform and strengthening of the judiciary.

In whatever we undertake, the OAS believes that it must include a cross-cutting objective — the strengthening of State institutions and capacity-building in order to execute Haiti's priority reconstruction programme. It is also, in our view, of critical importance the focus on the sustainability of progress, which will enhance confidence among Haitians and the international community, and no doubt lead to more support.

Next week's international donor conference on Haiti in Washington, D.C., with a most encouraging central objective to develop a new cooperation paradigm for growth and opportunity, will be, in our view, an opportune moment to bring all of these commitments together through the adoption of a framework for cooperation and international partnership for the effective coordination of governance mechanisms. We also believe that we should continue to foster partnership with the private sector in and outside of Haiti, as well as with civil society at large and the Haitian diaspora.

In closing, while the political, social and economic development of Haiti is, in the first place, a Haitian responsibility, we believe that it is also the obligation of the international community to politically and financial accompany the process of dialogue and reconstruction in Haiti.

I therefore take this opportunity, on behalf of Secretary General José Miguel Insulza, to reaffirm the strong commitment and support of the Organization of American States to the Government and the people of the Republic of Haiti in their efforts to continue to strengthen the democratic process and to enhance social and economic development and security for the benefit of the Haitian people.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to Mr. Pedro Medrano, Director of the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of the World Food Programme.

Mr. Medrano: On behalf of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), Josette Sheeran, I would like to start by expressing our sincere gratitude to the Security Council for inviting the World Food Programme to share its views on the challenges and opportunities that the current situation in Haiti is posing to the United Nations family and the international community.

The WFP is convinced that the current levels of poverty, deprivation and suffering, as described in the recent report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) (S/2009/129), are clearly incompatible with the goal of long-term stability. Even without further adverse weather threats, the current state of health and sanitation infrastructure and the continued food insecurity represent tremendous challenges.

As the Council is well aware, approximately 70 per cent of the population has no access to basic health services or sanitary facilities. Half of the population has no access to potable water. Before the most recent series of hurricanes, agricultural production met only

30 to 50 per cent of needs, with most farmers producing enough food for only six to eight months of the year.

The global financial crisis brings the risk of further deterioration due to a decrease in remittances. Recent reports indicate that remittances to Haiti began dropping in January 2009 and that they have now dropped by 10 per cent compared to last year. They also indicate that, on average, 77 per cent of remittances are spent on the basic daily expenses of food, housing, utilities, clothing and medicine. The impact of this downturn in remittances is likely to offset the current decrease in imported food prices, with serious implications for household vulnerability, poverty and hunger.

In 2008, in response to high food prices, natural disasters and extreme poverty, the World Food Programme raised over $100 million to ensure food assistance for more than 2.5 million people in Haiti. As of now, the number has risen to 2.8 million, who face continued malnutrition and threats to their livelihoods as they remain cut off from roads, markets and access to basic services.

The World Food Programme is restoring key community assets and infrastructure in both rural and urban populations by providing protective nutrition and social and educational interventions for women, children and the most food-insecure. We regard these as safety net measures, which improve nutritional and health status while enhancing access to education and providing livelihood protection for the most vulnerable.

I think that it is very important to highlight the fact that, in order to foster livelihood opportunities in rural areas, the World Food Programme is determined to work with partners to address the many challenges currently limiting the possibility of purchasing the food that is needed for its programmes from local Haitian small farmers.

The upcoming Haiti summit to be held in Washington, D.C., represents a major opportunity to forge a new paradigm in terms of economic and social security. The World Food Programme is committed to the socio-economic stabilization and development of Haiti, within the framework of the poverty reduction strategy paper, the post-disaster needs assessment and the plan that the Government of Haiti will present at the Washington conference.

The World Food Programme, like other United Nations agencies and donors, advocates strongly for a strategy that focuses on ensuring access to jobs and to basic social services in health, nutrition, food and education for the poorest population strata, while creating infrastructure, incomes, food security and environmental sustainability. This strategy is based on a firm engagement to support governance and leadership by the Haitian authorities of the critical socio-economic development process they are engaged in. We strongly feel and hope not only that these measures will reduce the risk of further civil unrest, but that they will also represent the best investment for the future of the country.

There is no doubt that, while the security situation in Haiti has improved since the Mission's initial deployment in 2004, Haitian people need more tangible improvements in their daily lives. A poor, hungry and desperate population is simply not compatible with stability.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to Ms. Yvonne Tsikata, Country Director for the Caribbean of the World Bank.

Ms. Tsikata: I thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to participate in this debate on Haiti. I would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Annabi, for his comprehensive briefing on the security situation in Haiti. As requested, I will briefly outline the World Bank's programme in Haiti and will also touch on our collaboration with the United Nations system.

The World Bank Group's current engagement with Haiti is governed by an interim strategy for 2007 and 2008. This interim strategy is based on twin pillars, which touch on many of the issues that speakers have alluded to: first, delivering hope to the population by helping the Government deliver quick wins in basic service provision and job creation; and secondly, restoring credibility to Haitian institutions by deepening reforms that promote long-term good governance and institutional development.

The interim strategy envisioned a $68 million programme of five International Development Association (IDA) grants for 2007, which were all approved as planned, in the areas of electricity, economic governance, rural water and sanitation, education and disaster risk reduction.

In 2008, the World Bank increased its support beyond the projections of the strategy by a factor of three, in response to the food and climatic shocks. Specifically, IDA approvals for the year increased to $39 million, through four projects in the areas of emergency recovery, teacher training, urban community development and budget support and response to the food crisis.

Looking forward, we are currently in the process of preparing a new country assistance strategy for the period 2009 to 2012, and this will go to our Board in June. The proposed strategy has three areas of focus: first, promoting growth and local development; secondly, investing in human capital; and thirdly, reducing vulnerability to disasters. Cutting across the strategy is a two-pronged approach, combining longer-term institution-building with support for the Government in the delivery of quick, visible results.

Even while we prepare the strategy, we have provided support to respond to the extraordinarily devastating impact of the tropical storms and hurricanes of this past August. Specifically, we have prepared and had approved a $20 million emergency bridge reconstruction and vulnerability project, $5 million in additional financing for emergency school reconstruction and an additional $5 million for rural drinking water supply and sanitation.

Our private sector wing, the International Finance Corporation, which has previously made investments totalling over $50 million in Haiti, will foster private sector development through both direct lending and technical assistance. They will focus on three main sectors: the financial markets, where they will look at trade financing, microfinance lending and small and medium-sized enterprises; manufacturing; and infrastructure. They will also provide technical assistance looking at business skills for small and medium-sized enterprises, free trade zones, investment promotion and improving the Doing Business indicators.

With respect to collaboration with the United Nations, we have worked closely with the United Nations and with other development partners in Haiti, both at the level of general donor coordination and at the specific level of individual projects that we partner on. I would like to mention four specific examples with respect to the United Nations.

The first is a joint initiative between the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and the World Bank to rehabilitate infrastructure in the volatile Martissant neighbourhood of Port-au-Prince.

We also have a strong partnership with the World Food Programme in the area of reducing malnutrition. We have held a number of joint missions and are working with other partners, such as UNICEF, the Pan-American Health Organization, the Inter-American Development Bank and the United States Agency for International Development. As a result of those meetings, participants and agencies have identified several specific actions for the coming months.

We continue to work closely with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Fund for Agricultural Development on food and agriculture issues following our joint mission last year after the food crisis.

Finally, we supported the Government of Haiti through a joint mission with the United Nations and the European Union on the post-damage needs assessment following the four tropical storms and hurricanes. As noted by other speakers, the devastation arising from those natural disasters was unprecedented. The situation is compounded by the global financial crisis, working primarily through the channel of remittances.

At the same time, there are opportunities for Haiti right now. As President Bob Zoellick noted during his visit to Haiti last October, MINUSTAH's success in stabilizing the situation must be accompanied by economic development gains, with strong bilateral and multilateral support. The upcoming donor conference, to be hosted by the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington on 14 April, offers an important opportunity for such international support and for the international community to demonstrate concretely its support for the Government and people of Haiti. We urge strong, consistent and comprehensive support through the donor conference.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to Ms. Dora Currea, General Manager of the Department of Caribbean Countries of the Inter-American Development Bank.

Ms. Currea: Haiti is the most vulnerable of the member countries of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), with the highest poverty rates and some of the most challenging indicators. Some 7.5 million

Haitians lived below the poverty line even before the multiple crises of 2008. As a new Government came to power by democratic means in 2007, expectations rose and, for the first time in some time, per capita gross domestic product growth was positive. A measure of political, social and economic stability was achieved. Without a doubt, the work of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti contributed to that achievement.

However, the 2008 food and oil price shocks provoked riots that led to the fall of one Government and pushed more Haitians into extreme poverty. The year 2008 turned out to be an exceptionally difficult year, even considering Haiti's turbulent history. Those events focused efforts on disaster relief. But now is the time to relaunch the Government's growth and poverty-reduction strategy. To ensure that the strategy promptly translates into improved welfare for the majority of Haitians, a renewed partnership with donors is required.

That is the purpose of the conference to be held on 14 April at IDB headquarters. We are pleased to host that conference. The IDB is Haiti's main multilateral source of financing. IDB member countries will make the largest contribution when Haiti is granted debt relief later this year. Moreover, that will be financed from internal sources. In response to 2008 shocks, our Governors doubled grant financing for Haiti to $100 million, reaffirming the institution's solidarity with its most vulnerable member country.

The Collier report commissioned by the Secretary General has been a key input for the conference. It has focused attention on the opportunities for success in Haiti if there is coordinated and immediate action on a few priority sectors to implement a strategy that targets job creation.

The conference will seek financing for reconstruction and economic recovery. The Government's priority projects cover investments in schools, hospitals and the water supply, along with measures that promote food security and safeguard the environment in preparation for the coming hurricane season. The priority projects will help Haiti to restore pre-hurricane levels of social service provision. Road and electricity investments are meant to leverage productive activities. It is the Government's hope that donors will either pledge new funds or realign existing resources towards the financing of these priority projects.

Public works projects, however, are not the only source of job creation. Authorities also target private investment to take advantage of the unprecedented market access to the United States.

More specifically, the conference will seek pledges for budget support. Despite the 2008 external shocks, Haitian authorities managed to maintain economic stability and stay on track on the commitments under the International Monetary Fund's programme, which is an essential condition for debt relief. To close the financing gap for the current fiscal year, authorities cut $75 million from the investment budget and will resort to $50 million in bridge financing from the central bank. Thus, authorities are urgently seeking $125 million in budget support.

Finally, the conference will aim to reach an agreement on a new cooperation paradigm. The renewed partnership is based on mutual accountability. Haitian authorities will commit to reforms to strengthen governance and enhance the business environment. Donors are invited to support those reforms, which seek to ensure greater sustainability and effectiveness, while moving to align their programmes with the Government's priorities and channel resources through the budget.

As the Secretary General noted in a recent opinion column in *The New York Times*, this is Haiti's moment. We look to the 14 April conference for donors to invest in Haiti and pave the way for potential investors to do the same.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to Mr. Niky Fabiancic, Deputy Regional Director, Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme.

Mr. Fabiancic (*spoke in Spanish*): As a member of the team of the Latin American and Caribbean regional directors of United Nations agency system, on behalf of Director Rebeca Grynspan and the team, I am grateful for the opportunity to speak in the Security Council on the question concerning Haiti.

The recent high-level Security Council visit to Haiti and that by the Secretary-General with former United States President Bill Clinton have raised great expectations in both Haiti and the international community. They have also been largely responsible for establishing an environment conducive to reaffirming and revitalizing the international

community's unshakable commitment to Haiti's success. Those visits have highlighted the good work done by Haiti's authorities and people, with the support of the international community, to put the country on the path towards recovery and development after having faced a series of crises and unprecedented natural disasters in 2008.

The Government of Prime Minister Michelle Pierre-Louis was able to maintain macroeconomic stability. With the support of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), agencies of the United Nations system, international financial institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGO), she was able to provide a strong response to the food crisis and the chaos produced by the hurricanes that assailed the country. Nevertheless, Haiti continues to face enormous challenges. Governance is weak. Recovery from the loss and damage caused by natural disasters has been slow. Food supplies do not meet demand.

This is an opportune moment for Haiti, as consensus has been developed as to what must be done in the coming years. The poverty reduction strategy paper has helped to identify the major national priorities, initiatives and efforts needed to put Haiti on the path towards sustainable development and on track to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In that regard, fully in line with the poverty reduction strategy, late last year, the Government of Haiti and the United Nations agency system agreed on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Haiti for the period 2009 to 2011.

At present, the Government is energetically leading efforts to identify priority programmes and efforts to be presented in Washington on 14 April during the high-level donor conference. That event will be an opportunity not only to renew commitments and increase economic support for Haiti, but also to continue to strengthen the country's stability, especially through a renewed partnership between the Government of Haiti and the international community and, above all, among Haitians themselves. We are certain that, at the conference, the Government of Haiti will present a clear, agreed vision for the future.

The need for a robust, focused economic strategy has been sufficiently analysed by Professor Paul Collier and other distinguished colleagues. The agencies of the United Nations system endorse the approaches set out in the report. But there will be no economic development without a reduction in the vulnerability of the poor population, and I want therefore to stress the importance of promoting an inclusive and equitable social agenda. We believe that economic and social agendas must be mutually reinforcing: an economic programme or agenda intended to create sustainable jobs is an absolute necessity and would without question have a great impact in terms of reducing poverty. Its impact will be greater if it is simultaneously complemented by a social agenda that could help the most vulnerable and needy, paying particular attention to the situation of children and women. If well coordinated and integrated, the two agendas could significantly help buttress social peace and stability. Achievements in the social sphere is key to providing the time that the economic programme needs to put down roots and grow, thus creating the conditions for significant investment to return to Haiti.

We believe that it is essential and urgent to provide incentives for the creation of jobs, especially jobs for women and young people; promote agricultural activities that require many workers, that restore the productive capacity of the land and that respect the environment; and improve the low quality of and limited access to basic services.

Because of time constraints, I shall not list all the achievements and contributions to Haitian development made by the agencies of the United Nations system. Nor shall I provide details of the significant improvements made in coordination among agencies and between the agencies and the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH); the recent high-level Security Council mission was able to observe this for itself. The agencies of the United Nations system have the experience, the knowledge and the commitment to support and work with the Government of Haiti in attaining its national priorities. The system's activities are carried out within the framework of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, which I mentioned earlier. We are concerned at the wide gap between the financing needed to carry them out and what is currently available. I wish to note that only 26 per cent of the necessary funds are available.

After the natural disasters of 2008, the Government of Haiti and the United Nations system, including the World Bank, adopted a somewhat new

approach to assessing damage and losses and to identify what needs to be done to put most of the affected communities back on their feet. The conclusions of the assessment are very clear and will be useful when it is time to rebuild. They also confirm the critical and urgent need to tackle Haiti's extreme vulnerability to natural disasters. If we fail to do this, we run the risk of permanently losing much of the development investment that is being made.

Let me also mention fully operational rule of law is essential to guarantee robust economic and social programmes. That is the main region why, through the Development Assistance Framework, the agencies of the United Nations system have made a commitment to redouble their efforts to strengthen and modernize Haitian institutions throughout the country and to promote democratic dialogue.

While we are heartened by the progress that can be seen in Haiti today, the situation is precarious, and ensuring the sustainability of what has been achieved poses a major challenge. We cannot forget the brutal daily reality lived by thousands of Haitians. The agencies of the United Nations system have long provided cooperation in Haiti and hope to continue to be an esteemed, trustworthy and efficient partner.

The Regional Directors for Latin American and the Caribbean are firmly committed to successfully implementing the programmes of the agencies of the United Nations system, in support of national priorities and in accordance with our mandates, in close cooperation with MINUSTAH, in order to move forward on the economic and social agenda and improve democratic governance in Haiti.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to Ms. Corinne Delechat, Mission Chief for Haiti of the International Monetary Fund.

Ms. Delechat: I am grateful for the Council's invitation and for the opportunity to give this briefing.

Haiti's situation has improved significantly since 2004, as others have noted. But important challenges lie ahead. In the past five years, Haiti's has made great strides in macroeconomic management in partnership with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), but also thanks to strong donor support and improved security under the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Real growth in gross domestic product turned positive again; inflation declined from 40 per cent to less than 5 per cent today; fiscal discipline was restored; and international reserves have increased. In spite of the unprecedented shocks during 2008 — not only the hurricanes but also high food prices — the authorities were able to maintain macroeconomic stability and remain on track under the programme supported by the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF). However, this was not easy, and these hard-won gains remain very fragile.

First, an increasingly tense political situation could complicate economic policy-making in the period ahead. Here, I agree with the analysis of Ambassador Annabi. In recent months, political tensions have slowed the passage of the budget and of economic governance measures needed to secure important debt relief. There is also a risk that the upcoming senate elections could complicate an already difficult relationship between the executive and legislative powers. Efforts will have to be made to develop a broad political consensus around the Government's efforts to preserve macroeconomic stability and raise living standards for the poor.

Secondly, the global crisis is starting to affect Haiti, mainly through trade and fiscal linkages. We anticipate that the effect on the external current account deficit of weaker export demand and lower remittances will be cushioned by lower food and fuel prices. Lower import prices have also helped bring down inflation, but they are creating a significant shortfall in customs revenue, estimated at about $50 million for fiscal year 2009 if no additional measures are taken. On the financial-sector side, for the time being, commercial banks appear to remain well capitalized and profitable, but the quality of loan portfolios should be monitored closely.

The Fund has stepped up its efforts to help Haiti respond to the negative impact of the global crisis as well as last year's hurricanes. On 11 February, the Fund's Executive Board approved an increase of $37 million in IMF support, the second increase under the current PRGF arrangement; the first was in response to high food prices. Since 2006, Haiti has received a total of $136 million in PRGF disbursements. The increase from the Fund in February is roughly equal to the additional post-hurricane budget support pledged by donors, which we hope will be disbursed soon.

Haiti is also on track to receive almost $1 billion in debt relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor

Countries and Multilateral Debt Relief initiatives by the end of June. Annual debt service savings of $35 million to $40 million would free resources for poverty-reducing expenditures. Conditions to reach the completion point under the initiative include improvements in health, education, domestic revenue mobilization, debt management and governance. IMF and World Bank staff are closely monitoring progress in these areas and are prepared to move quickly with the provision of debt relief to Haiti once remaining reform measures are implemented.

Given the immense needs even before the hurricanes, the authorities are seeking an additional $125 million in budget support and more than $700 million in project financing at the high-level donor conference to be held in mid-April. The new budget support would help close a $50 million budge gap and finance critical investment projects. The requested project support would be allocated to priorities within the Poverty Reduction Strategy and the post-hurricane reconstruction programme. However, to date little additional support has been identified, raising the risk that the April conference will not be successful. That, in turn, would further undermine the authorities' efforts and is in the context of an already declining overall budget support envelope for Haiti.

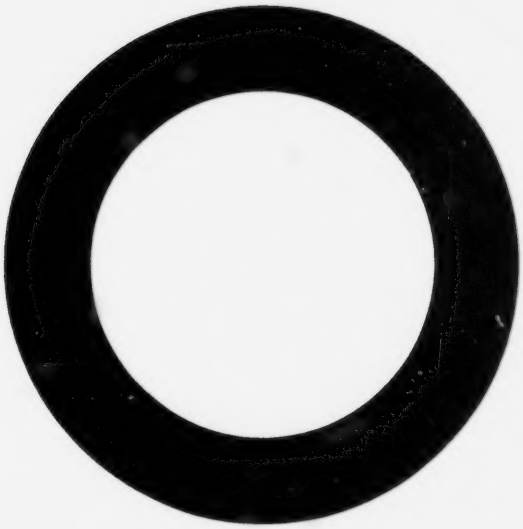
The IMF is committed to helping Haiti present its case to the international community and will send a delegation to the conference led by the Deputy Managing Director. We urge the other donors to come forward at the Washington, D.C., conference and provide the much-needed financing. We think that failure to adequately support the authorities' budget may prevent the implementation of investment projects essential to creating jobs, supporting growth and raising living standards. That could risk jeopardizing political and social stability. Haiti needs more effective and more reliable external assistance, primarily in the form of budget support.

Looking ahead, important challenges remain to consolidating stabilization gains, promoting growth and reducing poverty in the midst of the global slowdown. Over the medium term, it will be important to reduce structural and institutional bottlenecks, raise domestic resources to support higher social and capital spending, develop the financial sector and create favourable conditions for private sector investment to boost exports, achieve sustainable growth and reduce poverty. The potential benefits of that approach were highlighted in a recent report by Professor Paul Collier. The report usefully suggests focusing interventions on a few key sectors, including the promotion of export-processing zones, to reap the benefits of preferential access to the United States market.

As mentioned by the Secretary-General, there is hope for Haiti. Renewed international partnership along the lines of mutual accountability can help Haiti turn the corner.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): There are still a number of speakers remaining on my list for this meeting. I intend, with the concurrence of the members of the Council, to suspend the meeting until 4 p.m.

The meeting was suspended at 1.05 p.m.



United Nations S/PV.6101 (Resumption 1)

Security Council

Sixty-fourth year

Provisional

6101st meeting

Monday, 6 April 2009, 4 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Heller	(Mexico)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Ebner
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Koudougou
	China	Mr. Huang Hongjiang
	Costa Rica	Mr. Urbina
	Croatia	Mr. Skračić
	France	Mr. Guidée
	Japan	Mr. Kumagai
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Dabbashi
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	Turkey	Mr. Çorman
	Uganda	Mr. Mugoya
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Williams
	United States of America	Ms. Germain
	Viet Nam	Mr. Bui The Giang

Agenda

The question concerning Haiti

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (S/2009/129)

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09-29318 (E)

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The meeting resumed at 4.10 p.m.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Jamaica, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Wolfe (Jamaica) took the seat reserved for him at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I wish to remind all speakers, as I indicated at the morning session, to limit their statements to no more than five minutes in order to enable the Council to carry out its work expeditiously. Delegations with lengthy statements are kindly requested to circulate the texts in writing and to deliver a condensed version when speaking in the Chamber.

I now give the floor to the representative of Uruguay.

Mr. Cancela (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation, on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti, would like to congratulate you, Sir, and the delegation of Mexico for having taken the initiative to organize this debate on Haiti and in this way to address the latest report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) (S/2009/129) and the Security Council's recent visit to Haiti in March 2009, led by Costa Rica.

Before noting the two main topics to be addressed by the Council, I would like to reaffirm once again the Group of Friends of Haiti's full commitment to and support for the Haitian Government and people in rebuilding their country, consolidating peace and stability, and promoting recovery and sustainable development.

As the coordinator of the Group of Friends of Haiti, I would like to express our strong support for MINUSTAH — and for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in their efforts to improve the stability and governance in Haiti. The latest report of the Secretary-General, dated 6 March 2009, underlines the progress made in implementing the mandate of MINUSTAH, as set out in resolution 1840 (2008) and previous resolutions.

The Group of Friends of Haiti welcomes the progress achieved in four of the five areas considered critical for consolidating Haiti's stability: political dialogue and elections; extension of State authority, including border management; strengthening of security; and the rule of law and human rights. Similarly, we recognize the strong commitment of a group of Latin American countries that are pooling their resources to help train the Haitian National Police. We also underscore the efforts made by the Meeting of Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Ministers for Defence of the Consultative Group 2 x 9 on Haiti.

As regards political dialogue and the elections, our Group believes that establishing the Government of Prime Minister Pierre-Louis represents an important step forward and the expression of improved cooperation among the executive branch, Parliament and civil society in response to the devastating series of tropical storms that struck the country. It is important to consolidate that cooperation in order to meet the country's needs.

The Group of Friends of Haiti stresses the need for free and fair elections and calls on all political actors to ensure that the upcoming elections for the renewal of one third of the Senate are held in a peaceful atmosphere.

Haiti continues to grapple with food insecurity, significant poverty and a fragile humanitarian situation. In those areas, unfortunately, there has been a marked deterioration in the daily living conditions of the vast majority of the Haitian people. The Group of Friends of Haiti shares the view of the Secretary-General that stabilization, security and development are linked, since the current levels of poverty, deprivation and suffering in the country are clearly incompatible with long-term stability. Therefore, it is urgent that the Haitian authorities collaborate closely with the international community to facilitate the distribution of humanitarian aid and recovery work and to lay a foundation for renewed private-sector activity in the interests of the country's long-term reconstruction and development.

The Group of Friends of Haiti reaffirms the great importance of the donor conference on 14 April. It will be an opportunity for donors and partners to improve coordination and to make available the additional assistance required by the Government of Haiti to meet the country's immediate needs and to lay the foundations for sustainable economic and social development.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Chile.

Mr. Muñoz (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank you, Sir, for giving me the floor as a representative of a Member State, especially given that some representatives of the United Nations agencies wanted to take the floor before us. I would like to thank you in particular for convening this meeting on the situation in Haiti, the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) (S/2009/129) and the recent visit by a Security Council delegation headed by Ambassador Urbina of Costa Rica.

While endorsing the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Uruguay on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti, at the outset I would also like to reiterate Chile's commitment to the stabilization process in Haiti. Since the beginning of the Haitian crisis in February 2004, my country has joined the efforts of the international community to avert a civil war and to contribute to the reconstruction process of that Caribbean nation. To that end, we participated in the Multinational Interim Force in Haiti in the first phase and, since then, we have maintained an active presence in MINUSTAH throughout its five years of existence.

We welcome the resolute measures taken by President René Préval to consolidate democracy in his country and to strengthen the rule of law and respect for human rights. We believe that full stabilization should go hand in hand with an inclusive democratic process in which everyone feels engaged in the reconstruction and eventual prosperity of their nation. In that regard, we value the upcoming elections of 19 April and hope that they take place in the most normal possible conditions.

While recognizing the improved security conditions in Haiti, such as the decrease in the number of kidnappings, we are also encouraged to note the progress made on four of the five benchmarks established by the Secretary-General: political dialogue and elections; extension of State authority, including border management; strengthening of security; and the rule of law and human rights. Likewise, enhanced patrolling of maritime and land borders should continue with increased international assistance in order to mitigate the potential destabilizing effect of drug trafficking.

In particular, we would like to express our profound concern over the stagnation of Haiti's socio-economic development and food security. The inextricable linkage between security and development is fundamental to understanding the current situation in Haiti. Therefore, we believe that appropriate coordination between all stakeholders involved in building peace in Haiti, as established in resolution 1840 (2008), must include efforts to improve the socio-economic indicators for Haitians. Without that, the achievements of the past five years in Haiti could rapidly disappear.

The next donor conference for Haiti, to take place in Washington, D.C., on 14 April, is a positive sign. Chile, given its position as a country with a bilateral cooperation policy with Haiti in such areas as education and the promotion of kindergartens, will participate and contribute, within its capacity, to the success of that conference so as to ensure the due implementation of development programmes for the Caribbean nation under the key principle of national ownership. Concurrently, it is urgent to further foster private investment, which helps to create employment and an environment favourable to foreign and national investment.

Allow me to underscore not only the historic commitment of my country but also the efforts of a large number of Latin American countries. Those countries account for nearly 60 per cent of the Blue Helmets in MINUSTAH and, under such initiatives as the "2 x 9 Mechanism" and the recently established Working Group for the Latin American coordination and cooperation with the Haitian National Police, are seeking to formulate coherent and sustainable strategies to optimize the contributions of our troops and police, both within MINUSTAH and in training and cooperation programmes with the Haitian National Police. To cite just one statistic, this year our country will train more than 70 Haitian National Police officers in Chile at the Carabineros Police Sciences Academy. The programme will continue for the next few years.

I conclude with an appeal that we not forget Haiti. The recent hurricanes and their devastating consequences for the population, together with the food and economic crises, make it more urgent to continue to work towards the goal that brings us together today: achieving a lasting peace in Haiti with full respect for and the promotion of human rights, strengthening of the rule of law and democracy and real progress in terms of development and dignity for its population.

Finally, my country remains committed to Haiti and, alongside the United Nations, will persevere in the pursuit of all these humanitarian objectives in that brotherly Caribbean country.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now call on the representative of Canada.

Mr. McNee (Canada) (*spoke in French*): I wish at the outset to thank you, Mr. President, and the entire Mexican delegation for having organized this important meeting. I should also like to thank Mr. Hédi Annabi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his briefing today and for the work that he has done in Haiti since he assumed his duties in 2007.

Canada attaches great importance to the Haitian dossier. Haiti is the second-largest recipient of Canadian development aid, after Afghanistan. Our total commitment has risen to $555 million for the period 2006-2011. Furthermore, Canada believes that the inter-American nature of the efforts in Haiti is a fundamental aspect of international action in that country. That regional solidarity also makes partnerships with the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Community imperative. In addition, Canada promotes an approach that includes the whole island of Hispaniola and recognizes the importance of the Dominican Republic to the Haitian dossier.

This is the first open debate of the Security Council on Haiti since March 2006. Much progress has been made over the past three years. We can be proud of what has been accomplished by the Haitians and by the international community. We wish to thank the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for its work to stabilize Haiti and for its role in the re-establishment of security. We also commend the United Nations country team, led by Mr. Joël Boutroue, for its work in the development and coordination of humanitarian aid. I should also like to highlight the exceptional work done by UNICEF and the World Food Programme in response to the damage caused by the four hurricanes that hit Haiti in August and September 2008. Their intervention, including in partnership with the Canadian frigate *St. John's*, made it possible to save many human lives.

Last summer's hurricanes were a reminder that all the progress made in Haiti remains fragile. Consolidating security requires concerted action in the area of development. On the other hand, truly useful action in the area of development requires unwavering political support. To that end, all United Nations actors in Haiti must support one another. In particular, the Special Representative must provide the added value of his political role to the country team's activities.

(*spoke in English*)

In a context such as that in Haiti, where everything must be done immediately, certain priorities must be set. Progress has been made in Haiti over the past few years because there was a political consensus among Haitian authorities. Given the multiple challenges that the country is facing, it is essential to maintain that consensus among Haiti's decision-makers in order to work for the common good of the Haitian population. The Special Representative's role is crucial in that regard. We know that the great majority of Haitians want reform in order to develop their country. Only those who profit from instability and insecurity have an interest in maintaining the status quo. But maintaining the status quo would only set the stage for another crisis. Eight United Nations interventions over the past two decades should be sufficient proof of that.

We think that MINUSTAH must remain in Haiti for as long as it takes to guarantee the security and stability of Haitian institutions. It must continue to be given appropriate resources and an appropriate mandate. MINUSTAH's work must clearly be paired with progress in reforming the Haitian National Police and with reforms made to the judicial and correctional systems.

Canada would also like to point out the usefulness of the indicators of progress presented by the Secretary-General last summer, when the future of MINUSTAH was being considered. We believe that those indicators must be developed further to allow the Haitian Government and the international community properly to measure the impact of their joint stabilization and reconstruction efforts.

Resolution 1840 (2008) contains all the elements needed for appropriate follow-up through the next renewals of the Mission's mandate. Haitian leadership and ownership of reforms are crucial ingredients, but this must not delay required reform. Inertia cannot be a response to the complex problems facing Haiti.

The donor conference to be held in Washington, D.C., in a few days' time is an important step for Haiti and its international partners. It will be a good opportunity to strengthen the coordination of partnerships with the road map that is the national growth and poverty reduction strategy paper. Moreover, we thank the Secretary-General for commissioning Professor Paul Collier's report, which highlighted objective factors specific to Haiti and provided a boost and needed optimism for the country's economic prospects and for the generation of new jobs.

This July, in the light of the results of the Washington, D.C., meeting, the Economic and Social Council Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, which Canada has the privilege of chairing, will make recommendations regarding long-term development strategies for Haiti. The Senate elections, also being held in a few days, should help to stabilize Government institutions there.

In conclusion, Canada will continue to cooperate with Haiti by fully respecting its Constitution, its culture, its history and its diversity. We stress the need to work with a united Haitian people and with national authorities who are politically inclusive and convinced of the need to move forward together democratically towards true political, economic and social development. The damage inflicted by hurricanes last year was indeed a setback, but the progress that has been achieved in other areas gives hope for the future. The international community has no alternative but to remain committed to helping Haiti to move ahead to a better future. That is why, despite the extent of the challenges, Canada remains determined to continue to contribute to Haiti's development.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now call on the representative of Brazil.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil) (*spoke in Spanish*): I am pleased to see Mexico and you, Sir, in the presidency of the Security Council for the month of April. Your extensive experience and well-known skill guarantee the productive and effective management of the work of this organ.

I also wish to express my appreciation to Ambassador Jorge Urbina, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, for having led the Council mission to Haiti. His report in that connection contains important items of information.

(*spoke in English*)

I also wish to express my delegation's appreciation for the work that is being done in Haiti by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Hédi Annabi, as well as for Mr. Annabi's briefing this morning.

Brazil concurs with the key assessment of the Secretary-General in his latest report on Haiti (S/2009/129), that despite progress in areas such as political dialogue and elections, extension of State authority, the strengthening of security, rule of law and human rights, there has been a marked deterioration in the living conditions of the population. In addition, achievements in the area of security are still fragile.

That assessment corroborates Brazil's view that it is necessary to maintain the present configuration and mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), while emphasizing the need for the international community to support domestic efforts to improve the socio-economic situation in the country. Haitians have primary responsibility for and full ownership of their country's development. However, they continue to need our unwavering solidarity and support.

As is widely known, MINUSTAH and the Haitian authorities have cooperated to dramatically improve security in the country. Areas of Port-au-Prince and other cities that were dominated by gangs are now under the authority of the State, and their inhabitants can live without fear of violence. However, the relative fragility of such gains demonstrates that more work is needed to make them fully sustainable. A key component of the strategy to achieve that goal is the reform and strengthening of the Haitian National Police (PNH) as well as of the judiciary and the correctional system. Brazil and several other countries are assisting or preparing to assist the Haitian Government in these crucial tasks. There is optimism that the PNH will reach the quantitative and qualitative goals that have been established, but for this to happen

staying the course is essential. These endeavours are part of a larger effort to continue investing in capacity-building so as to endow the country with the institutional tools it needs to consolidate stability. All bilateral and multilateral assistance in this regard should be enhanced at this crucial juncture.

In recent months, the Secretary-General has redoubled his efforts to attract international attention and investment to Haiti. His recent visit, alongside former President Clinton, testifies to the fact that the Secretary-General fully shares the view that security measures alone cannot solve the root causes of Haiti's problems. As a country that has long maintained that long-term stability in Haiti needs a combination of security, national reconciliation and development, Brazil can only applaud such initiatives.

The sad statistics about poverty in the country are well known. Reversing them requires that the Haitian Government and its numerous partners jointly intensify efforts to overcome the challenges faced by Haitians in their daily lives. The donor conference to be held in Washington on 14 April is a unique opportunity for furthering coordination among stakeholders and for raising additional resources. The Collier report and the national strategy document for growth and poverty reduction provide guidance for formulating and implementing projects with short-term results.

Financial constraints on donor countries are currently significant as they themselves struggle with diminishing revenues. But let us not forget that Haiti's needs are pressing and very significant. In a time of crisis, the poorest within and among nations are the ones most adversely affected. We must not withdraw our helping hand precisely when they need it most. Active leadership will be required on our part to ensure continued commitment to Haiti and its efforts to address the basic needs of its population.

For Brazil's part, President Lula and Minister for Foreign Affairs Celso Amorim have, time and again, reaffirmed our commitment to assist Haiti on its path to stability and development. This approach sustains our firm engagement with MINUSTAH. Our troops will remain in Haiti as long as Haitian authorities and the international community deem it necessary.

We were pleased to hear this morning the acknowledgement by Security Council members of the contribution made by the Force Commander, General Santos Cruz, and by the troops and policemen in MINUSTAH. The new Force Commander, General Floriano Peixoto Vieira Neto, will assume his functions shortly. We are confident that he will provide the same quality of leadership as his predecessors.

Our commitment to Haiti also translates into bilateral and trilateral cooperation projects in a wide gamut of areas, such as agriculture, fisheries, education and energy generation.

The coming elections for the senate are crucial, not only to consolidate Haiti's institutions, but also to facilitate the legislative work in the upper house of parliament and therefore help to advance the needed reforms. Brazil contributed $500,000 for the organization of the electoral process, which we are confident will be transparent, fair and credible.

The Brazilian Government is closely following the current efforts by the Haitian Government to prepare institutional reforms. We trust that an inclusive process of consultations will allow Haitian society as a whole to reach the necessary agreements. Effective and sustainable democratic governance is a goal to be pursued with great determination and even a sense of urgency everywhere, Haiti being no exception.

The upcoming senatorial elections and the donor conference constitute two major opportunities for Haiti to reaffirm ownership of its political and socio-economic development processes. We call upon the Security Council to send an unequivocal message of its continuous support for Haiti and for the work being done by MINUSTAH.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Argentina.

Mr. Argüello (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like at the outset to indicate that my delegation associates itself with the statement of the Permanent Representative of Uruguay, who spoke on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti. I also wish to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of April and, in particular, to thank the delegation of Mexico for convening this open debate on the situation in Haiti. In addition, I wish to highlight the importance of the visits by the Security Council mission and by the Secretary-General to Haiti as a demonstration of the international community's commitment with respect to the situation in the country.

When, in 2004, the Security Council established the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), the country was sinking into violence to which the State had no institutional capacity to respond. For this reason, the Council established an integrated mission with a strong mandate, focused on the issue of security. The main objective of MINUSTAH was to establish a secure, stable environment, where the political and constitutional process in the country could develop. In this sense, we can say that in the current phase of its development, the Mission has certainly made significant progress.

Thus, the coming to power of a constitutionally elected Haitian Government was a first major step in the political life of the country. Similarly, the resolution of the political crisis triggered by the fall of the Prime Minister in April 2008, through the appointment of a new Prime Minister in September of the same year, and the call for parliamentary elections, which will take place in this month of April 2009, are milestones in the development of the Haitian political process that we should see in a positive light.

That is the meaning of what the Secretary-General is saying in his latest report on Haiti (S/2009/129) when he stresses the progress on the political dialogue, reflected in the will of Haitian political leaders to work together to respond to the country's situation, and in particular to the crisis created by the devastating hurricanes and tropical storms of 2008.

As a country participating in MINUSTAH, the first peace mission with a majority of Latin American contingents, in terms of both troops and the military command, Argentina is pleased that the Mission has become a decisive factor in re-establishing stability and security in the country and in supporting the Haitian people in its commitment to democracy. The recent Security Council mission to Haiti noted the progress made in the security sphere and stressed the support that MINUSTAH gives the Haitian National Police to build its capacity. It also indicated that the improvements achieved can be seen in the decrease in the crime rate and in the increasing confidence of the Haitian people in the police.

The progress made in the area of security is encouraging. However, we note with concern that Haiti's opportunities for economic and social development have been significantly compromised, especially because of the grave damage inflicted by natural disasters. The situation in Haiti continues to be fragile owing to persistent poverty and unemployment and the limited capacity of Haitian institutions to provide basic services to the population. The close relationship between security and development highlights the fact that the action of the international community cannot and must not be confined to the presence of MINUSTAH, as any lack of visible improvement in the living conditions of the Haitian people could endanger the country's stability.

For this reason, the upcoming donor conference in Washington is an opportunity to move forward on Haiti's economic and social development and in its institution-building, confronting the many challenges that face us. To this end, the coordination of international cooperation with Haiti must be improved and institutional capacity in Haiti must be strengthened, thus ensuring the dawning of a new age. We must work for Haiti to take charge, in the medium-term, of the implementation and coordination of the assistance it receives.

The United Nations has an essential role to play, since without a real bolstering of the Haitian State, a political consultation process that ensures governance and a basic level of human development, the factors that made it necessary for the Organization to intervene will never be resolved. The success of the United Nations will be demonstrated when its presence is no longer necessary.

We are facing a unique historic opportunity to align the contributions of the international community with the priorities established by the Government of Haiti for its own economic and social development. In this context, I wish to stress the commitment of the Latin American countries to Haiti, especially through technical cooperation projects entailing a substantial human resources presence and aimed at strengthening the Haitian State. The cooperation that Argentina provides to Haiti in the fields of food security and strengthening the structures of the Ministry of Planning and Cooperation and the Ministry of Economy and Finance are carried out in this context.

Before concluding, I would like to return to the main conclusions of the most recent report of the Secretary-General on Haiti, where he notes that, notwithstanding difficulties, we have an opportunity to advance towards the consolidation of stability in Haiti.

To this end, the continued commitment of international community to support Haiti's security, State institutions and economic and social development must be ensured.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Dominican Republic.

Mr. Del Rosario Ceballos (Dominican Republic) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, I would like to congratulate Mexico, a distinguished member of our region, on its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of April and for its initiative to convene an open Security Council debate on Haiti. Debates such as this keep the spotlight on the principle of solidarity and the commitment of the international community to Haiti.

Likewise, I wish to congratulate the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the transparency and good work they carried out during the month of March at the head of the Security Council. I also thank Mr. Hédi Annabi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for his valuable briefing this morning.

Recently, nature has had a harsh impact on what were already difficult living conditions for the peoples of our two countries, but we recognize that it has been even more devastating for the neighbouring people of Haiti. Recurring hurricanes have cast a shadow and indeed affected Haiti's present and its future, at least its immediate future. In this context, we note the urgency of responding to the call for solidarity expressed in many multilateral forums by prominent leaders in our region. The time has come to actively help Haiti, and as the Secretary-General has said, this help should be aimed at reducing Haiti's dependence on humanitarian assistance, as recent statistical studies have observed that Haiti's economic fundamentals are strong.

The Dominican Republic views in a very positive light the work done by MINUSTAH, and believes that this effort of solidarity, which involves the countries of our region and other parts of the world, will contribute to the development and institutional, economic and social progress of the Haitian people.

The Dominican Republic is currently working with Haiti, as noted by the Secretary-General in his report on MINUSTAH (S/2009/129), on the re-establishment of the Haitian-Dominican Joint Commission, which is aimed at addressing priority issues in our relations, including immigration issues, the increasing trade, health, education, border security, the fight against drug trafficking, the environment and other questions of interest for both countries.

In this regard, I am pleased to announce that the Joint Commission will be meeting starting in mid-April 2009 to commence work on our important common agenda. Without a doubt, the friendly and special nature of the personal relations between President Fernández Reyna of the Dominican Republic and President Préval of Haiti has contributed significantly to the progress in strengthening the ties between the Dominican Republic and Haiti and, above all, to the readiness to facilitate communication and better understanding, as befits two peoples destined to share a geographical border.

With regard to border management, the Dominican Republic has implemented a professionally managed programme on its side of the border through the creation of CESFRONT, or the Specialized Border Security Force. It is charged with supervising the border with a view to preventing the trafficking of drugs, arms and persons and has the specific mandate of ensuring strict respect for the physical integrity and health of the persons that cross through it. The results of that programme were highlighted in the report of the Security Council mission that recently visited Haiti, which confirmed the climate of respect and professionalism that prevails in the border area.

We support the upcoming donor conference that will be held in Washington, and we trust that it will stimulate the cooperation of the international community with Haiti. Recent progress in Haiti has been noted by the Security Council mission and by the Secretary-General following his visit to Haiti with former President Clinton.

We know that the international financial and economic crisis affects us all, but in our opinion, the principle of solidarity should be maintained, particularly in the case of Haiti, since, as the Secretary-General has said, the progress that has been made there remains very fragile and is subject to reversal.

I conclude by reiterating the readiness of the Government of the Dominican Republic to continue to contribute to this effort in favour of Haiti. I trust that the international community, and in particular donor

countries as a whole, will continue to adhere to the sound principle of solidarity.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Ecuador.

Ms. Espinosa (Ecuador) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I would also like to express my gratitude to your country for its initiative to convene this special meeting on the report (S/2009/129) of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). This is an issue of great importance not only to Ecuador but to all of Latin America and the Caribbean. I also take this opportunity to congratulate the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica for its effectiveness and dynamism during its leadership of the Security Council group to assess this organ's resolutions on MINUSTAH.

Showing solidarity with Haiti has been a permanent feature of Ecuador's foreign policy. That has been especially true at times when that sisterly Caribbean country has suffered the devastating effects of hurricanes and tropical depressions, which have increased the vulnerability and affected millions of our Haitian brothers. My delegation takes this opportunity to express its support for MINUSTAH and for Mr. Hédi Annabi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of MINUSTAH, for their efforts to improve stability and the political situation in Haiti.

The latest report of the Secretary-General, issued on 6 March 2008, highlights the progress made in implementing the mandate of the Mission established by the Security Council and in fulfilling all the relevant resolutions. My country has joined the international community and the United Nations in committing itself to actively cooperate in peacekeeping and the maintenance of peace and security through an ongoing rotation of military engineers, resources and equipment to MINUSTAH. Ecuador's military contingent in Haiti is thereby providing support to the Government of Haiti with a view to establishing a security environment that will make it possible to sustainably re-establish democratic institutions, fully restore the rule of law and put in place the framework necessary to promoting the economic well-being and development of that sisterly Caribbean country.

With regard to peacekeeping operations, Ecuador's policy is not limited to sending troops. A whole host of measures have been adopted that reflect a comprehensive policy on security. For instance, five years ago, Ecuador established a school unit on peace missions. The education given to Ecuadorian Blue Helmets helps them to address problems associated with displaced persons, refugees and humanitarian disasters. It also trains them to resolve problems that may arise with civilian populations.

Ecuador is also proud to be part of the Consultative Group 2 x 9 on Haiti, which supports achieving the benchmarks that the Secretary-General conveyed to the Security Council in his August 2008 report (S/2008/586) to strengthen stability in Haiti: promoting political dialogue and elections, extending State authority, establishing a sustainable security mechanism, the rule of law and human rights. We hope that the social and economic development benchmark will be met in the near future. Ecuador believes that social inclusion and ending poverty are among the major challenges facing the sisterly Haitian country.

Ecuador also welcomes the extension of MINUSTAH's mandate. We also commend the Senate's confirmation, in December 2008, of Mrs. Michelle Duvivier Pierre-Louis as Prime Minister at a time of emergency in order to address the various crises from which Haiti is suffering. Ecuador very much hopes that the upcoming elections for the Haitian Senate will take place in a free, fair and inclusive manner and in an atmosphere of openness and peaceful debate that allows for decisive progress on the institutional reforms that are needed.

Haiti continues to suffer from food insecurity, high levels of poverty and unemployment, and a fragile humanitarian situation. My Government hopes that the Group of Friends of Haiti, donor countries and Haitian Government officials will succeed in agreeing on a long-term stabilization programme that will facilitate and accelerate the reconstruction and development process of that sisterly country. Ecuador also hopes that the donor conference to be held on 14 April in Washington, D.C., will be an opportunity for countries friendly to Haiti put in place the necessary mechanisms to lay the foundations for achieving the stable and lasting economic and social development that the Haitian people so long for and deserve. My country reiterates its unwavering commitment to contribute to building a better future for Haiti, our sisterly Caribbean country.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Peru.

Mr. Chávez (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation is pleased to see you, Mr. President, guiding the work of the Security Council this month. We are also pleased to participate in this open debate, for which we are grateful. We would also like to associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the representative of Uruguay on behalf of the Group of Friends of Haiti.

My delegation would also like to express its gratitude for the Security Council's mission to Haiti from 11 to 14 March. We would like in particular, through you, to congratulate Ambassador Jorge Urbina, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, for his serious and professional leadership on a subject of particular importance and sensitivity for Latin America and the Caribbean. We would also like to thank Mr. Hédi Annabi for his ongoing efforts in Haiti and for the important information he has given us.

It is clear that the security situation in Haiti has improved. Areas that were once convulsed by violence, such as Cité Soleil, today enjoy considerable calm with regard to daily life. Co-existence and political dialogue continue to prevail, despite some difficulties. We hope for the success of the elections to be held this month to elect a third of the Senate. We also welcome improvements in extending State authority, strengthening the rule of law and respect for human rights.

However, it is no less true that there are specific and quite worrisome problems on the socio-economic front. We are concerned about the deterioration in people's living standards as a result of the difficulties that the country faced in 2008, in particular as a result of the global food crisis and the damage caused by the hurricanes that struck the island. In an already extremely fragile environment, those difficulties have been exacerbated by the effects of the global financial and economic crisis. Far from losing hope, we should face the challenges with renewed vigour. Haiti's reconstruction and development are still unfinished tasks.

Haiti now has a priceless opportunity in the high-level donor conference that will take place on 14 April in Washington, D.C.. This is essentially an opportunity to secure financial and technological support, as well as to further focus the Government's effort with regard to planning and the necessary identification of key objectives in the areas of food security, steps to create jobs and providing reliable basic services. Addressing urgent needs, which no doubt exist, does not obviate the need to think about the long term and about sustainable economic and social development. The goal should be not just to secure resources, but also to improve governance.

Speaking more broadly, it is a priority to support the progress to which reference has been made in the areas of security, political dialogue, the extension of State authority and entrenching the rule of law and respect for human rights. That should be done through steps that make it possible to gradually and concretely raise the standards of living of the average Haitian.

My delegation would like to highlight once again the important role that is being played by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti in bringing stability in Haiti. We would also once again like to commend the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Haiti and of United Nations development agencies that, along with other international bodies, are doing commendable work in that country. Coordination between the Government of Haiti and all the groups providing advice, cooperation or assistance should continue to be fine-tuned and strengthened. Ensuring ownership of the process by the Government and the people of Haiti is a major challenge which must be faced with decision, energy and healthy optimism. It is also a major responsibility: ultimately, the Government and the people of Haiti must set the guidelines and decide on their own future, with the active support of the international community.

Once again, I stress the unwavering commitment of the Government of Peru to the stabilization and development of Haiti.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Czech Republic.

Mr. Palouš (Czech Republic): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

First and foremost, let me begin by thanking Mr. Hédi Annabi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, for his comprehensive briefing and for his leadership of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). I would also like to welcome the President of the Economic and Social Council and to thank all those who briefed the Council and all those who participated in today's debate.

The European Union welcomes the recent mission of the Security Council to Haiti and expresses its gratitude to the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica, who led the mission. The European Union followed with great interest the main achievements and outcomes of the mission. We also took note of the recent recommendations of the Secretary-General presented in his latest semi-annual report on MINUSTAH (S/2009/129).

The European Union would like to thank MINUSTAH for its very active and effective work, shown predominantly through its efforts in reversing the deteriorating security situation and assisting with State building and institutional capacity-building. The European Union also notes the progress in the professionalization of the Haitian National Police (HNP), which operates in close cooperation with MINUSTAH. It underlines the continued need for increased cooperation with the Haitian national police with a view to responding more effectively to threats from organized crime. Justice reform is also one of the prerequisites for consolidating the security situation.

We share the opinion that the formation of a Government with Michelle Duvivier Pierre-Louis as its Prime Minister was an important achievement, and we encourage the Government to take additional steps forward in the country's further political, security and socio-economic stabilization. The European Union also commends the leadership of President René Garcia Préval in stabilizing the economy and restoring political institutions.

The partial senatorial elections to be held in April and June 2009, which have been postponed since the end of 2007, remain a significant challenge for Haiti on the political front. Those elections will complete the composition of the upper chamber of the National Assembly of Haiti. The successful conducting of those elections will without doubt contribute to further stabilization of Haiti's political and security situation. Therefore, support provided by the international community is crucial in this area. The European Commission will contribute the amount of €3.3 million to these efforts.

While tangible progress has been reached in the areas of political dialogue and elections, the extension of State authority, security, rule of law and human rights, there is still much that needs to be done in these areas. The European Union commends the efforts of MINUSTAH in assisting the Haitian authorities, in particular the Haitian National Police, in the areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform. The European Union believes that State-building activities and security sector reform need to be further pursued, as security sector reform is one of the key challenges that the Haitian Government faces. The European Union is committed to remaining part of the international community's efforts in supporting Haiti in this critical area, which also encompasses the rule of law, human rights and combating armed violence and organized crime.

The European Union remains particularly concerned about the levels of poverty and the socio-economic and humanitarian situation in Haiti. In this regard, the global financial crisis, the food crisis and the devastating consequences of Hurricanes Fay and Gustav and the tropical storms, have put additional pressure on Haiti's already dire socio-economic conditions. This deterioration of the socio-economic situation must be reversed to avoid a potential negative impact on the overall security situation, which still remains very fragile. In this context, the continuing engagement and vigilance of MINUSTAH is important.

The focus of European Union cooperation is shifting from support for the transition period through democratic reform and rehabilitation to economic recovery and basic services. The European Union indeed believes that strong socio-economic development is required to sustain and consolidate the new-found stability. Furthermore, the capacity of the State to deliver basic services needs to be enhanced. The European Union cooperation strategy with Haiti for 2008 to 2013 is based on those elements. The strategy, funded with €291 million, will primarily focus on infrastructure, mainly the building of roads, as well as on governance. In this context, I would also like to mention that in February 2009 the European Union, which is one of the major donors to Haiti, opened a

local representation of its Humanitarian Aid Office in Port-au-Prince.

In conclusion, the European Union would like to express its full support for the high-level international conference on Haiti that is scheduled for 13 and 14 April in Washington, D.C., to support reconstruction efforts and the implementation of the Government growth and poverty reduction strategy. The conference will also contribute to the establishment of a new paradigm for cooperation between Haiti and its financial donors. The European Union stands ready to play an active part there.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of Cuba.

Mr. Moreno Fernández (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): First and foremost, Sir, I would like to express, on behalf of Cuba, our satisfaction at seeing you, a representative of Mexico, our sister nation, presiding over the Security Council. We wish you great success in your work.

The revolution leading to the independence of Haiti on 1 January 1804 was the first event by which the Caribbean became known as an actor on the world stage. The Haitian revolution, which sheltered and encouraged many revolutionaries of the continent at crucial moments of the Latin American fight against colonial domination, also influenced in a special and powerful manner the destiny and formation of the Cuban nation.

However, Haiti, cradle of the liberation wars against colonialism in America and the first independent republic in Latin America and the Caribbean, is today a country neglected by the international community. That Caribbean country is one of the clearest examples of the evil consequences of colonialism and neocolonialism, of the unjust and exclusionary current international order and of the continuous interventionism that has characterized its turbulent history.

When addressing the situation of Haiti in the framework of the United Nations, attention almost always centers on so-called security matters, which for all practical purposes minimizes the urgent attention to the serious structural, economic and social problems of the country. To achieve peace, security and stability in that nation requires, first of all, the elimination of poverty and underdevelopment. Clearly, there can be no development without peace and stability, but it is even clearer that there can be no peace and stability without development and that there can be no peace and security for a people living in hunger, terrible poverty, ill health and illiteracy.

We recognize that the security situation on the ground has improved since the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti was established in 2005. There has not been, however, nor there can be a military solution to the question of Haiti. Almost 80 per cent of the population of that country lives in poverty, half of the labour force is unemployed, life expectancy is below 52 years, and 48 out of every 100 inhabitants are illiterate. The number of people infected with HIV is the highest of all Caribbean States and almost half of the population is malnourished.

Last year, Haiti suffered a new, devastating blow from four consecutive hurricanes and tropical storms that lashed the country. The death toll was huge and the damage to the infrastructure and the economy amounted to approximately 15 per cent of the gross domestic product, the worst Haiti has faced since early the early twentieth century.

Cuba, a small blockaded country with limited resources, has continued and increased its cooperation with that Caribbean sister nation, mainly in the health sector, but also in others, such as energy, education, agriculture and sports. At present, over 400 Cuban cooperants, mainly from the health sector, are rendering their services in the most remote places of Haiti. Almost 200 specialists in comprehensive general medicine and other specialties are at work in every department of the country. Since the Cuban collaboration with Haiti was initiated in 1998, Cuban doctors have given over 14 million consultations, assisted over 100,000 childbirths and performed 250,000 surgical procedures.

Almost 300 young Haitian doctors who graduated in our country are being trained with the Cuban medical brigade in Haiti. About 50 Haitian doctors are studying their second specialty in Cuba. Moreover, over 600 Haitian scholarship holders are studying in Cuba today totally free of charge. Five hundred of these students are connected to health specialties. Over 800 Haitian youths have graduated as professionals from Cuban schools. In the framework of Operation Miracle, a cooperation programme developed by Cuba and Venezuela to offer free assistance to patients from

various countries with eye problems, 32,191 Haitian patients had undergone surgery as of February 2009, 31,035 of whom were treated in two eye centres and two mobile surgical units donated by the Republic of Cuba to that Caribbean country. The implementation of the Cuban literacy programme "Yo si Puedo" has taught 160,490 Haitians to read and write.

Cuba's actions on behalf of Haiti are a modest example of how much can be achieved in that country through international cooperation and assistance, mainly from those States with larger economic and financial resources. Haiti has very limited resources to face its many challenges. It is the unshirkable duty of the international community to contribute massively, increase its assistance and honour its financial and human commitments to that Caribbean country. Without the support of the international community, even the modest Millennium Development Goals will remain unattainable for Haiti.

I would like to conclude by reiterating that Haiti can always count on the assistance and solidarity of the Cuban people and Government. We are simply fulfilling a duty and honouring our debt of gratitude to the Caribbean peoples, which have always showed their firm and constant friendship and solidarity with Cuba.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Colombia.

Ms. Blum (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me at the outset to congratulate you, Sir, and through you Mexico, on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council this month. We wish you success in the consideration of the issues on the busy agenda of the Council that you made public at a press conference on 2 April.

We welcome your initiative to convene this open debate and to give special attention to the question of Haiti. The participation in this debate of representatives of the Economic and Social Council, the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Development Bank, among other important institutions, emphasizes the comprehensive and pragmatic focus with which the consideration of this important matter has been approached.

Colombia recognizes the problems and challenges that Haiti faces, recently exacerbated by natural disasters and an international economic and financial crisis, as well as by soaring food prices. We share with other Latin American and Caribbean countries the priority and resolve to support Haiti in overcoming the challenges facing it. To that end, in addition to the bilateral efforts it has already undertaken, Colombia is participating in several regional initiatives.

Following the guidelines of the President of Colombia, we are focusing our participation principally on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). Responding to an explicit call by the United Nations, Colombia recently increased its contribution to the Mission by contributing police officers with experience in fighting kidnapping and the world drug problem.

Colombia will broaden its contribution of police personnel to MINUSTAH and will continue to work with the other Latin American countries. Recently, we initiated our participation as an observer country in the 2 x 9 Mechanism, established by the Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Defence of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay. We also participate in the Working Group for the Latin American coordination and cooperation with the Haitian National Police.

Allow me to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, Mr. Hédi Annabi, for the report (S/2009/129) that he presented today for the consideration of the Council, in which important considerations, which Colombia shares, are formulated. We agree with the report to the effect that one of the greatest short-term challenges facing Haiti is the upcoming senatorial elections, and with the recommendation that every effort must be made to guarantee that this democratic exercise be free, fair and inclusive. It is likewise important for the Haitian political leadership to adopt a collaborative approach that allows the legislative agenda to move forward and towards longer-term objectives.

Regarding the strengthening of institutions, we agree with the Secretary-General's observation in his report that the impact of bilateral initiatives would be enhanced through improved coordination within an overarching, nationally owned framework for State reform. The donor conference that will shortly be held in Washington, D.C., will be a good opportunity to make progress in that respect.

Colombia, aware of the essential role that security plays in the consolidation of State authority

and institution-strengthening, welcomes the timely decision adopted by the Security Council in October 2007 on the enlargement of police personnel in MINUSTAH.

In March 2009, the Colombian Deputy Minister of Defence and the Director of the Colombian National Police undertook a visit to Haiti, where they had the opportunity to conduct interviews with the highest authorities of the country, members of the United Nations team and diplomats of Latin American countries, with the objective of identifying Haiti's primary needs and possibilities for cooperation.

As a result of the visit, greater efforts will be made towards greater cooperation in the area of security, providing Haiti and MINUSTAH with Colombia's experience in strategic planning, police organization and the training of commissioned and non-commissioned officers and specialized teams, such as judicial police. As mentioned before, cooperation with the Haitian police will be broadened in the battle against drugs, kidnapping and common and organized crime.

The strengthening of the Haitian National Police is a step in the right direction and a response to the present challenges, particularly the fight against crime, the extent of which calls for a comprehensive police response. As part of Colombia's contributions to that process, we have consistently supported the establishment of institutions with the capacity to respond to those challenges within the framework of the protection of human rights.

In the field of natural disasters, which have affected Haiti's efforts towards economic and social development, in 2008 Colombia made a contribution of six tons of food, medicines and other elements of emergency humanitarian assistance to address the emergency situation and mitigate the effects of hurricane Gustav and tropical storm Hanna. Our cooperation also includes technical education, food security and environment protection initiatives. Colombia hopes that the solidarity and material support offered by the international community will effectively contribute to the consolidation of democracy, security and sustainable development in Haiti. We believe that all of the efforts channelled through MINUSTAH will translate into better living conditions for the Haitian population.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Mr. Valero Briceño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of the Government of Hugo Chávez Frías, Sir, I wish you resounding success as you lead the work of the Security Council during the month of April.

Haiti has played a stellar role in the history of Venezuela. Francisco de Miranda, a forefather in our fight for independence, created the first flag of Venezuela in Haiti. Simón Bolívar, the liberator not only of Venezuela but of other nations of the Americas, was protected and supported by the illustrious leader Alexandre Pétion, father of independent Haiti — the first nation of Latin America and the Caribbean to gain its independence from colonialism. Haiti has suffered various invasions and interventions throughout its history and has been subject to the most despicable imperial efforts to undermine its sovereignty.

According to a report of the United Nations Development Programme, Haiti was ranked 146th out of 177 countries in 2008. Life expectancy at birth was 59.5 years in 2005. That calamitous reality makes it necessary for Haiti to obtain, on an urgent basis, the social assistance and investment that will raise its living conditions. Without such social and economic cooperation and without setting limits on the perverse logic of capital that seeks to turn a profit at any cost, it will be impossible for Haiti to obtain full and self-sufficient development for all its people.

From 1990 onwards, like other countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, Haiti suffered under the perverse prescriptions of neo-liberal economists, imposed under the auspices of the World Bank. Those prescriptions were totally unsuited to our realities. The social and human consequences were devastating and led to the dismantling of an already severely affected economic base as well as agricultural and livestock production. That situation created an opportunity for imported products and voracious international consortiums. The perversity of such capital was lethal to the socio-economic structure of Haiti and had terrible consequences that completely undermined its food sovereignty. The current international economic and financial crisis affects not only Haiti, but all poor countries, increasing poverty and inequality. Haiti is a warning against the predatory economic models and

the high social costs a country may have to pay for them.

Since the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) entered Haiti, some stabilization objectives for Haiti have been met, but it must also be recognized that major mistakes have been made, calling into question cooperation with the military and police sectors and to prioritizing the strengthening of security. My country's experience demonstrates that this can even be counter-productive if no plan has been set out for comprehensive economic and social cooperation. The Bolivarian Government believes that this is what the people and the Government of Haiti require.

Mr. René Préval, President of Haiti, has stressed the fact that MINUSTAH must reinvent itself to open the door to a new era. He has mentioned the need to reform Haiti's judicial system and above all to obtain socio-economic support. We believe that President Préval is responding to the social, political and economic crisis.

The Bolivarian Government of Venezuela, led by Hugo Chávez Frías, has provided sustained assistance to the Haitian people in the form of energy cooperation to help hospitals and clinics to provide treatment. Together with our sister Government of Cuba, we have provided food and health care assistance. We are moved by our desire to overcome poverty through the use of integration plans based on solidarity between peoples and Governments. Venezuela has also stepped up every time devastating natural disasters have struck the country of Alexandre Piéton.

The people of Haiti are worthy and valiant. They do not wish to be treated as less able. They have fought valiantly for their freedom, self-determination and independence. They do not want handouts from the international community, but cooperation and solidarity, the only possible cooperation in the framework of which the people of Haiti can exercise their own destiny in sovereignty.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I give the floor to the representative of Jamaica.

Mr. Wolfe (Jamaica): May I at the outset, on behalf of my Caribbean Community colleagues and my own delegation, extend warmest congratulations to you, Sir, on your assumption of the presidency for this month.

When I assure the Council of the honour, the pride and satisfaction which my delegation feels in addressing the Security Council in the name of the 14 member States of the Caribbean Community on the question of Haiti, and express my gratitude for the invitation extended to do so, I do much more than pay homage to a convention of this august body. I feel that I am discharging a family obligation, since Haiti is a member of the Caribbean family. We sit in the same regional councils, working together toward the same regional goals and objectives, and therefore we naturally share a common view of the importance of this consideration by the Council of the situation concerning Haiti and a common expectation regarding its outcome.

The Secretary-General deserves commendation for the wide-ranging, frank and substantive assessments contained in the report he has presented, in document S/2009/129, on the progress of the effort to implement resolution 1840 (2008) during the period from 27 August 2008 to 27 February 2009. In that report we see clearly the enormous complexity of the situation in Haiti and the many challenges facing the effort to consolidate that country's stability and lay a foundation for security and sustainable long-term development. Those processes were further complicated by the series of tropical storms and hurricanes that ravaged the country during the reporting period, and later by the effects of the global financial and economic crisis.

While there is certainly no room to minimize or downplay the seriousness of the factors that still hobble the stabilization effort in Haiti, in like manner we should be careful to discern, and give their due worth to, the creativity, perseverance and sheer grit through which we see hopeful changes emerging on the Haitian panorama. I refer to the area of establishing political dialogue and to the extension and strengthening of the authority and reach of the State and of the rule of law, for example.

For sure, these are achievements of the Haitian authorities and people, who deserve our recognition. But a great share of the credit also goes to the men and women of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) for their dedicated, patient and constructive involvement in providing assistance and support to the people of Haiti over a wide range of areas critical to the re-establishment of conditions of stability, such as the provision of security assistance to

the electoral process, enhancing institutional capacity, promoting and strengthening security, reducing violence, enhancing police capacity and the enjoyment of human rights, among others. The Caribbean Community expresses its sincere appreciation to MINUSTAH for these valuable contributions. May I add that the Caribbean States are proud of the level of assistance we have been able to provide with the dispatch of police units and police officers from two member States, Grenada and Jamaica.

But however encouraging these improvements may be, the Secretary-General is careful to note their fragile nature. While the task of making them more robust is the responsibility of the Haitian authorities and people, the international community has a duty to support them in this effort. In this regard, the Caribbean Community supports the convening of the high-level donor conference to lend support to the implementation of the National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction. We look forward to strengthened unity and cooperation among the Haitian people and to the creation of conditions of greater security and stability in the country. In our view, these would offer the best promise of a meaningful and productive partnership between the Haitian authorities and the donor community in order to ensure that the country is helped onto a path of sustained economic recovery.

Finally, the Caribbean Community wishes to thank the Secretary-General for his report and for his recent visit to Haiti. We strongly endorse his appeal for the international community to continue to focus attention on the provision of much needed assistance to Haiti, an appeal that, we note, was strongly endorsed by his Special Representative today. We also wish to express sincere appreciation to that Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Hédi Annabi, for his leadership of MINUSTAH and for the comprehensive report that he provided to the Council.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to Ambassador Léo Mérorès, Permanent Representative of Haiti.

Mr. Mérorès (Haiti) (*spoke in French*): Allow me first, Mr. President, to congratulate you on Mexico's assuming the presidency of the Security Council. As you know, Mexico is a country friendly with ours. Also, I would like to congratulate you on the exemplary manner in which you have been conducting the work of the Council during your presidency. I wish to thank you too for having taken the initiative to hold this open debate on the question of Haiti.

I also congratulate the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Annabi, for the briefing he gave us this morning, which admirably complements the Secretary-General's recent report on the situation in Haiti. On behalf of the Government of Haiti, I wish to congratulate him on the outstanding job done under his enlightened leadership by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

I would like to take this opportunity to express once again, on behalf of the Government and people of Haiti, our gratitude to the many countries of the region, of CARICOM, which, under Brazil, are participating in MINUSTAH. The positive results of the Mission were covered at length by many speakers and do not need any additional comments.

In that regard, before I go on, I wish to make particular mention of all those workers for peace who, day and night, are present throughout Haiti and who are giving the authorities and people of Haiti their contributions to the renewal of the country. They come from all continents and from various horizons, but they are all inspired and united by their desire to help redress a situation that has gone on all too long. The Government of Haiti salutes their efforts. I wish to take this opportunity to humbly pay my respects to those who have perished on the field of honour.

Once again I should like to thank the members of the Security Council and the international community as a whole for the ongoing interest in Haiti. I carefully noted the various comments, analyses and suggestions that provided a backdrop to the various statements. Very sincerely, I would like to thank all speakers, from CARICOM and the Latin American region or elsewhere, for the support they have shown with regard to my country. I convey to them the gratitude of the Government and people of Haiti.

I need not recall the importance and symbolism of the recent visit to Haiti by a high-level delegation led by the Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, and the former United States President, Bill Clinton, a visit referred to by several speakers. It was followed by the Security Council's visit, from 11 to 14 March, under the leadership of Ambassador Urbina of Costa Rica, which was very much appreciated by the Haitian people and Government. They see it as tangible proof of the international community's interest in the situation in Haiti and its commitment to support us in rebuilding the country. The Government and people of

Haiti remain fully committed, with the strong support of regional and international institutions and the entire international community, to building a new, modern, democratic society, one geared towards sustainable development.

The Secretary-General's report in document S/2009/129, before us today, is very timely and commands our attention. It has come at a crucial time, when the Haitian people are preparing to cast their votes on the 19th of this month in order to fill 12 vacancies in the Senate of the Republic. These elections, as the report says, could help facilitate the functioning of the upper house and reinforce the bases of democratic renewal to which the Haitian nation aspires.

While, as the report stresses, the security situation has definitely improved thanks to better coordination between the Haitian National Police and MINUSTAH, we cannot declare victory, because the situation clearly remains fragile. The report itself acknowledges that. I would like to say that the Government is perfectly aware, just as we all are, that much remains to be done in that area. That is why we attach special importance to initiatives to give the country a 14,000-strong police force by 2011, while increasing and improving our efforts with regard to the judicial and correctional systems, to which some speakers referred today.

Regarding socio-economic development, as many speakers have acknowledged, Haiti is still struggling to recover from the adverse effects of last April's food crisis and of the storms that struck the country in August and September 2008, caused considerable destruction to major infrastructure and almost wiped out our agriculture sector. As a result, the national economy is still suffering enormously, which is compounded by the global economic and financial crisis affecting the whole world. We know only too well that 78 per cent of the population still lives below the poverty line and that the efforts of the Haitian authorities and the international community to meet the Millennium Development Goals are being sorely tested.

That is why my delegation would like, through this body, to once again thank the Secretary-General for his active commitment to the success of the donor conference on Haiti's social and economic development that will take place in Washington on 14 April, that is to say next week. In that connection, it is worth underscoring the trip that the economist Paul Collier recently made to Haiti at the Secretary-General's request and the resulting report. The needs and the possibilities were in most cases identified and are taken up in our national strategy paper for growth and poverty reduction.

Aligning the interventions of our partners with the priorities of the Government and the funds to be released following that conference will, we hope, give the country a boost and enable it to move forward on a different, far more stable economic basis. Once again, our thanks go to delegations that have shown their interest in the success of the conference and have already expressed their intention to actively participate. The Haitian Government has no doubt that, with their support, the goals that it has set for the economic recovery of the country and for meeting the basic needs of the population will be achieved. More than one speaker has made the point today that Haiti is at a decisive turning point and that the country and the international community should seize the moment. We would like to affirm that, for its part, Haiti stands ready to do so.

It has very often been said that economic development and security are closely linked and that no country can escape that linkage. Moreover, in addition to the efforts that the Security Council is making through MINUSTAH to stabilize the country, as various speakers have recalled, it is also clear that that stabilization is contingent on progress in the area of socio-economic development. That is why my Government, aware of that crucial link, attaches great importance to the success of the Washington conference next week and affirms that it looks forward to the strong support the international community at this conference.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now invite Mr. Hédi Annabi, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Haiti, to make some final comments.

Mr. Annabi: I would like to thank the members of the Security Council for their strong expressions of support for the performance of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and for the stabilization process in Haiti in general. I will share the comments made by the members of the Council today with the members of our team, who will, I am sure, find them very encouraging. We hope that this support can be sustained, including in particular in the context of the upcoming Washington conference.

I would also like, especially at a time when Mexico is presiding over the Security Council, to place on record my strong appreciation for the critical contribution that the Latin American countries are making, with others, to the work of MINUSTAH. In that connection, I would like to acknowledge in particular the contribution that our outgoing Force Commander, General Santos Cruz, has made to the improvement of the security situation in Haiti and to acknowledge his highly effective leadership during the 27 months that he has spent with us in MINUSTAH.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Organization of American States for its cooperation and its support to the electoral process through the registration of voters, as well as for the support that they are providing to the Haitian authorities in the printing and distribution of identity cards to eligible voters.

Finally, Mr. President, I would like to thank you for organizing this important debate and for your helpful observations, and those of members of the Council. We will certainly bear them in mind, including the comments of Ambassador Urbina on sustainability, which are clearly very relevant. I believe that we need to continue to work together to create an environment in Haiti that is sustainable not only from the point of security, but also in order to place the country on a durable development track so that when the time comes MINUSTAH can leave without having to return.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

> "The Security Council welcomes the progress achieved so far in critical areas for the consolidation of Haiti's stability, namely political dialogue, extension of State authority, including border management, strengthening of security, and rule of law and human rights.
>
> "The Council notes with concern the challenges in the area of social and economic development, as there has been a marked deterioration in the living standards of the vast majority of Haitians. The Council reiterates the need for security to be accompanied by social and economic development as a way for Haiti to achieve lasting stability. In this regard, the Council calls upon MINUSTAH and the United Nations Country Team to enhance further their coordination with the Government of Haiti and international and regional partners, while bearing in mind the ownership and primary responsibility of the Government and people of Haiti.
>
> "The Council recognizes the vital importance of the high-level donor conference on Haiti to be hosted by the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, D.C., on 14 April. The Council welcomes the valuable continuing support of donors and urges them to make available the additional technical and financial assistance required by the Government of Haiti to meet the country's immediate humanitarian, early recovery and reconstruction needs, while laying the foundations for sustainable economic and social development.
>
> "The Council urges the institutions of Haiti to intensify their efforts to meet the Haitian population's basic needs, and to work together to promote dialogue, the rule of law and good governance.
>
> "The Security Council reaffirms the need for the upcoming elections for the renewal of one third of the Senate to be inclusive, free and fair. The Council calls on all political actors in Haiti to ensure the elections are held in a peaceful atmosphere.
>
> "The Security Council reiterates its strong support for MINUSTAH and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for their efforts to improve stability and governance in Haiti, while emphasizing the need for MINUSTAH to continue to adjust to changing circumstances on the ground, and expresses its appreciation to all Member States who support the stabilization process, in particular the troop- and police-contributing countries."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2009/4.

I thank those who participated in today's rich debate for their statements.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6102

Security Council

Sixty-fourth year

Provisional

6102nd meeting

Tuesday, 7 April 2009, 12 noon

New York

President:	Mr. Heller	(Mexico)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Ebner
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Tiendrébéogo
	China	Mr. Long Zhou
	Costa Rica	Mr. Urbina
	Croatia	Mr. Vilov
	France	Ms. De Montlaur
	Japan	Mr. Takasu
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Gebreel
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	Turkey	Mr. Ilkin
	Uganda	Mr. Mugoya
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Quarrey
	United States of America	Mr. McBride
	Viet Nam	Mr. Dang Hoang Giang

Agenda

The situation in the Central African Republic

Letter dated 3 March 2009 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2009/128)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

09-29447 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at noon.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Central African Republic

Letter dated 3 March 2009 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2009/128)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of the Central African Republic, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Poukré-Kono (Central African Republic) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of members to document S/2009/128, containing a letter dated 3 March 2009 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the recent progress towards implementing the recommendations of the inclusive political dialogue, held in Bangui from 8 to 20 December 2008. It reiterates its full support for this process, as an effective framework to foster national reconciliation and stability in the Central African Republic. The Council calls on all parties to sustain the momentum created by the dialogue and the spirit of compromise and cooperation that enabled its successful holding.

"The Security Council demands that all armed groups which have not yet done so, particularly those recently operating in the northern Central African Republic, cease violence immediately. It calls on all parties to respect and implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in Libreville on 21 June 2008 and their earlier commitments contained in the Sirte Agreement of February 2007 and the Birao Agreement of April 2007. It invites countries in the region to support efforts to bring all groups into the peace process.

"The Security Council calls on all armed groups to immediately cease the recruitment and use of children and release all children associated with them. The Council calls on all parties, as a matter of priority, to develop and implement, in close collaboration with the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic, action plans in the framework of Security Council resolutions 1539 (2004) and 1612 (2005).

"The Security Council stresses the urgency and imperative necessity of carrying out the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process (DDR). It calls on all parties in the Central African Republic to work with determination to that end. The Council welcomes the pledge made by the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) on 30 January 2009 to contribute to fund the DDR process, and calls on the international community to provide timely and adequate support to the process.

"The Security Council calls on the Government of the Central African Republic and all political stakeholders to ensure the timely, effective and transparent preparation for the 2009 and 2010 municipal, legislative and presidential elections.

"The Security Council welcomes the recommendation by the Secretary-General, in his letter dated 3 March 2009 (S/2009/128), to establish a United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) to succeed the current

United Nations peacebuilding office (BONUCA). It notes with satisfaction that the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office will perform the following tasks:

"(a) To assist national and local efforts in implementing the dialogue outcomes, in particular through support for governance reforms and electoral processes;

"(b) To assist in the successful completion of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and the reform of security sector institutions, and support activities to promote the rule of law;

"(c) To support efforts to restore State authority in the provinces;

"(d) To support efforts to enhance national human rights capacity and promote respect for human rights and the rule of law, justice and accountability;

"(e) To closely coordinate with and support the work of the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding and projects supported through the Peacebuilding Fund;

"(f) To exchange information and analysis with the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) on emerging threats to peace and security in the region.

"It also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the integrated office undertakes the following additional task:

"(g) To help ensure that child protection is properly addressed in the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the DDR process, including by supporting the monitoring and reporting mechanism established according to resolutions 1539 (2004) and 1612 (2005).

"The Council requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the smooth transition to the new integrated office take place as soon as possible, including through the early deployment of the new Special Representative and deputy. The Council further requests the Secretary-General to inform it in his next report on the structure and strength of the new office, bearing in mind that resources for special political missions are limited.

"The Security Council welcomes the support provided by the Peacebuilding Commission to the Central African Republic, looks forward to the finalization of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding, and calls on the donor community to work with the Commission to identify sectors that are critical for long-term stability and development in the Central African Republic and to intensify their support in those sectors."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2009/5.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6103

Security Council

Sixty-fourth year

Provisional

6103rd meeting

Wednesday, 8 April 2009, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Heller	(Mexico)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Ebner
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Kafando
	China	Mr. Long Zhou
	Costa Rica	Mr. Urbina
	Croatia	Mr. Vilović
	France	Mr. Renié
	Japan	Mr. Okuda
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Dabbashi
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	Turkey	Mr. İlkin
	Uganda	Mr. Mugoya
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Quarrey
	United States of America	Ms. DiCarlo
	Viet Nam	Mr. Le Luong Minh

Agenda

The situation in Guinea-Bissau

Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in that country (S/2009/169)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

09-29637 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Guinea-Bissau

Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in that country (S/2009/169)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Guinea-Bissau, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Cabral (Guinea-Bissau) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Joseph Mutaboba, Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Mutaboba to take a seat at the Council table.

As this is Mr. Mutaboba's first briefing to the Security Council in his capacity as the Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau, on behalf of the Council I wish to congratulate him on his appointment. We look forward to working closely with him and wish him good luck and success in his new and challenging assignment.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and Permanent Representative of Brazil.

It is so decided.

I invite Ambassador Viotti to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2009/169, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in that country.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear briefings by Mr. Joseph Mutaboba, the new Representative of the Secretary-General, and Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti.

I now give the floor to Mr. Joseph Mutaboba.

Mr. Mutaboba: I must at the outset apologize for the sound of my voice: it has been affected by travel and by the great deal of talking I have recently done in Guinea-Bissau — but the talking has been useful.

The report before the Council, contained in document S/2009/169, is the thirty-fourth report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS).

Its highlights are that the report reviews the main developments in Guinea-Bissau since the Secretary-General's previous report, of 2 December 2008 (S/2008/751), in particular the formation of the new Government, and the tragic events of March and the aftermath.

The ruling party, the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), won an absolute majority in the legislative elections of November 2008, and President Nino Vieira invited the PAIGC leader, Carlos Gomes, Jr., to form a Government, which took office on 8 January 2009.

On the evening of 1 March, a bomb blast killed the Chief of General Staff, General Tagme Na Waie, and a few hours later, the head of State, President João Bernardo Vieira, was also assassinated. On 2 March, the Council of Ministers instructed the Prosecutor General to establish a commission of inquiry into both assassinations. On 3 March, the Speaker, Raimundo Pereira, was sworn in as interim President of the Republic, in keeping with the provisions of the constitution, with the main task of organizing the anticipated presidential elections.

Reaction to the assassinations was swift, and several countries and organizations, including the African Union (AU), the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the European Union, the International Organization of la Francophonie and the United Nations, and bilateral partners, condemned the assassinations and called for a transparent investigation. They also called for the full restoration of the constitutional order through the holding of presidential elections.

Here are just a few words to update members of the Council on developments in Guinea-Bissau since the report was published.

On political developments, the state funeral of President Vieira took place on 10 March in an emotional but peaceful atmosphere. On 14 March, the Council of Ministers nominated Navy Commander José Zamora Induta as Chief of General Staff and Lieutenant Colonel António N'djai as Vice-Chief of General Staff. The army and air force chiefs of staff, who are more senior in rank than those two men, were passed over. The interim President issued a decree on 4 April to confirm those appointments on an interim basis until the swearing-in of the elected President of the Republic, although the constitution does not give him such a power.

The commission of inquiry into the double assassinations started its work on 12 March. The Prosecutor General and Minister of Justice requested technical and financial support. The Prosecutor General expressed concerns about the lack of security for commission members and witnesses against threats and intimidation and the lack of cooperation from the military with regard to information exchange on the military inquiry.

A parallel inquiry has been set up by the military to investigate the assassination of General Tagme Na Waie. The military commission detained a number of military and civilian people. According to the Guinea-Bissau League of Human Rights, some of the detainees show signs of physical mistreatment. On 2 April, the Prosecutor General called on the international community to intercede so that those impediments could be resolved and conditions created for the inquiry to proceed.

ECOWAS and the CPLP sent delegations on 3 March to discuss the crisis. The 26th ministerial-level meeting of the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council recommended that ECOWAS mobilize international support, including from the United Nations, for the preventive deployment of military and police to ensure the protection of institutions of the State, Government officials and the electoral process. It also recommended immediate steps to implement the ECOWAS Praia plan of action against drug trafficking, using Guinea-Bissau as one of the pilot countries. I am happy to report that Guinea-Bissau will be the first country to be used in the pilot.

The CPLP Council of Ministers, meeting in Praia on 25 March, among other things, supported the setting up of an international commission of inquiry, endorsed the ECOWAS proposal on preventive security deployment, if this was requested by the Guinea-Bissau Government, was coordinated by the African Union and received a mandate from the United Nations. However, on 1 April, the Minister of Social Communication and spokesperson of the Government stated that Guinea-Bissau had made no request for such a deployment and highlighted that what was needed was international support for security sector reform.

On 6 April, the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union, Jean Ping, announced the appointment of Mr. João Bernardo de Miranda, former Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola, as AU Special Envoy for Guinea-Bissau.

Regarding the presidential elections, a constitutional crisis was averted after talks between interim President Pereira and parliamentary and non-parliamentary political parties, as well as civil society, culminated in broad consensus to hold elections on 28 June 2009. The budget for the elections is nearly $5 million. The precise figure is $4,965,709. The Resident Representative of the United Nations Development

Programme has indicated that, including pledges, the current gap stands at $2.5 million.

With regard to human rights developments, Pedro Infanda, the lawyer of Rear Admiral Bubo Na Tchuto, was detained by the military and subject to torture on 23 March. Mr. Infanda's arrest followed his public criticism of what he considered to be unconstitutional nominations to the military leadership. The military claimed that his comments were a threat to peace and security. Mr. Infanda appeared before the Prosecutor General on 27 March and was interned in hospital. The former Prime Minister and current President of the Audit Court, Francisco Fadul, was also attacked in his residence in the early hours of 1 April by armed men in military uniforms, after he had made comments on the radio critical of the armed forces. The nominee for Chief of the General Staff condemned the attack but said it was probably carried out by individuals not belonging to the armed forces who wanted to tarnish the reputation of the armed forces. The President of the League of Human Rights went into hiding on 1 April after League staff reported that it had been threatened by an armed individual in plain clothes.

On socio-economic developments, the teachers' and health workers' unions have taken strike action over salary arrears and other issues. The Government currently owes three months' worth of salaries from 2008 and is processing February salaries.

In conclusion, allow me to highlight some key points. First, the people of Guinea-Bissau voted maturely and massively for hope and change in their lives. They were faced with infighting in the governing party prior to the tragic events of March. The Government was then forced by the events of 1 and 2 March to focus its energies on managing the political and military crisis. It is also grappling with a precarious fiscal situation and faces enormous difficulties in clearing salary arrears and tackling the social issues that it promised to resolve.

While the patience of the people of Guinea-Bissau is seemingly endless, one has to recognize that disillusionment is setting in, as is a feeling of frustration that any promise made quickly evaporates with another cyclical crisis. The people are being asked to go to the polls on 28 June 2009 to elect a President. Many of them question the appropriateness of elections soon after major violence and before the socio-political and military environment has had time to settle. We support elections as part of the democratic process and respect for the Constitution, but we must take on board those perceptions and be aware that there is a growing disconnect between the population and the democratic process, which, in the eyes of many, treats the people as electoral fodder and gives them nothing in return. It is important, therefore, that the population see some quick improvements in their lives if democracy is to mean anything to them.

Secondly, a sound Commission of Inquiry is essential to end the cycles of violence and impunity in the country. Officials tell me endlessly that they fear that such an inquiry will fail like so many previous ones. The Prosecutor General has, on several occasions, argued that the Commission does not have the necessary material or technical support. He also recently complained about the lack of cooperation from the military in this matter. It is also important to acknowledge that asking investigators and witnesses to carry out their duty and be brave when there is no safety net adds to the distinct possibility of failure.

Those pessimistic assessments are an argument for the creation of an international commission of inquiry and the provision of protection for witnesses and national officials involved in such an inquiry. The ECOWAS/CPLP proposal for protection provides a window for action to protect individuals and to guarantee peace and security. However, that international inquiry and protection offer requires a request from the Government, which has not been forthcoming. In contrast, following the 23 November 2008 attack on President Vieira, the caretaker Government in power and civil society asked for protection for top State officials. In my assessment, the security environment in the country is volatile and the international community must consider how best to bolster the security of the State, if called upon to do so, in what could be a rapidly changing environment.

Thirdly, security sector reform (SSR) is among the key reforms of the State. The focus of national stakeholders is particularly on defence. I regret to inform the Council that they have lost faith in the international community's ability to kick-start the reform. There are indeed programmes ready that need funding. Now is the time to get some quick wins and to start implementing those programmes, which in particular affect the veterans and other servicemen above the age of retirement.

There is an urgent need to focus on the basic needs of the military and of the population in general. As an integral part of the security sector reform plan, I am currently working with the Government of Guinea-Bissau, from the top down, to develop projects that would use military labour and land allocated to the armed forces to grow and process food, build homes and schools and provide other social services, using military personnel. Those projects will address the need to create a modern republican army endowed with the basic rights to food, shelter and education. The success of such projects will have a positive impact on SSR and on relations between the civilian population and the military. It is expected that, ultimately, the latter will become partners in the attainment of development and political stability in Guinea-Bissau.

At the same time, it is crucial that the international community provide financial and technical support to implement the national SSR programme and the ECOWAS regional action plan to address the growing problem of illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and drug abuse in West Africa as a region. In that connection, the Department of Political Affairs — through the United Nations Office in West Africa, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Criminal Police Organization — have agreed to work in synergy to support the implementation of the ECOWAS action plan. That joint initiative aims at providing technical assistance and building the capacity of police and law enforcement agencies in ECOWAS member States to improve the prevention of and fight against organized crime and drug trafficking. Guinea-Bissau is one of the pilot countries of this initiative, as I have already mentioned, and the country's international partners should help to make the initiative a success.

Finally, through you, Mr. President, I would like to call on the members of the Council and the international community to send a signal to the security forces and the Government of Guinea-Bissau that they are the only parties responsible for protecting and upholding the human rights of the people of Guinea-Bissau. I also urge each member of the Council to contribute its part to the efforts being made by the international community to support the elections, programmes aimed at ending impunity, and security sector reform in Guinea-Bissau.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I now give the floor to Mrs. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Mrs. Viotti: Mr. President, I would like to thank you for the invitation to address the Security Council in my capacity as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.

I also thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau, Mr. Joseph Mutaboba, for his presentation on the current situation in the country.

Since my briefing to the Security Council on 7 October 2008, there have been a number of developments in the country — some encouraging, others deeply disturbing — that impact international efforts to support peacebuilding. On the positive side, elections were held, a new Government was installed and its programme approved by the National Assembly. The members of the National Steering Committee for Peacebuilding were appointed.

Such progress was marred by the tragic events of 1 and 2 March. The country-specific configuration has joined the international community, including this Council, in strongly condemning the assassinations of President Vieira and General Tagme Na Waie. We also invited all partners and friends of Guinea-Bissau to maintain their commitment to the country, in particular through assistance in organizing the presidential elections called for in the national Constitution.

Fortunately, in the aftermath of these dreadful events, the Speaker of the Parliament, Mr. Raimundo Pereira, took over as the interim President, in accordance with the applicable constitutional provisions. In addition, a Commission of Inquiry was promptly set up.

However, the political situation was once again disturbed by recent episodes of violence and intimidation against well-known figures in Guinea-Bissau, including the President of the Audit Court and the lawyer of a former Navy Chief of Staff. Detentions of other persons, including senior military officers, have not yet been fully explained.

This is all extremely relevant to the work of the Commission. The assassinations and the latest developments are a reminder of the fragility of Guinea-Bissau and the need for the international community to

muster political and financial support for the country. It is also a reminder of the need for the country's Government and society to take full advantage of international willingness to assist them in surmounting the manifold challenges they face.

Among these challenges, I would single out two where the Peacebuilding Commission can make a significant contribution in the short term. The first is the organization of the presidential elections, which, according to a political agreement recently achieved, could take place on 28 June. Its estimated cost is around $5 million. The country-specific meeting will make an effort to help mobilize the funds needed to fill the gap. For its part, the Government is expected to take all measures to ensure a fair, transparent and credible electoral process. I am confident that the Bissau Guinean leadership — civilian and military — fully understands that the preservation of the constitutional order and effective democracy are essential elements of peacebuilding and an indispensable component of our partnership.

Another issue of critical importance is the reform of the security and defence sectors. The Peacebuilding Commission will convene a meeting dedicated to that matter next week, with the aim of listening to all relevant actors on their current activities on the ground. The meeting is expected to feed into the Praia conference scheduled for 20 April, at the initiative of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The objective of the Commission's meeting is to take stock of current undertakings in security sector reform, assess the main gaps and bottlenecks, and envision how we can best assist actors on the field to respond to Guinea-Bissau's concrete needs.

Security sector reform should be undertaken in a holistic manner. It should be seen not merely as a means of reducing the number of military personnel, but rather as a process that would allow Guinea-Bissau to rely on professional and republican armed forces. Adequate living conditions for those who will remain in the active service are also essential. Equally important, effective mechanisms to reintegrate those demobilized into civilian life are needed to ensure the political sustainability of the reform. These were key messages conveyed by the Minister of Defence at the Commission's last meeting on 25 March. The suggestions and ideas put forward just now by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General are very welcome and constitute, I think, an interesting basis for our discussions in the Peacebuilding Commission.

As acknowledged in the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau, security sector reform should neither be undertaken in isolation, separate from other important reforms, nor considered a panacea. The stability of the country will require a broader effort aimed at consolidating its institutions, strengthening the State and overcoming the hurdles that have been preventing Guinea-Bissau from embarking on a self-sustained process of economic growth over the past years.

Needless to say, strengthened State institutions are also key in the fight against illicit drug trafficking in Guinea-Bissau and in the region. We recall the support of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries in making Guinea-Bissau a pilot country, in implementation of the ECOWAS Praia action plan agreed upon last year.

In conclusion, the scenario for peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau remains quite challenging. The situation calls for sustained political and financial support from the international community and further and better technical cooperation. To this end, the strengthening of the United Nations presence on the ground is absolutely indispensable. We look forward to the Secretary-General's recommendations on how to upgrade the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) into an integrated office that is adequately staffed and endowed with the necessary resources to assist the Government in tackling the country's challenges. All the support that the Security Council can provide to UNOGBIS will be most welcome.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Ambassador Viotti for her briefing.

I now give the floor to the Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau.

Mr. Cabral (Guinea-Bissau) (*spoke in French*): I thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to take the floor today after the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Joseph Mutaboba, and the Ambassador of Brazil, who spoke in her capacity as Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General stated earlier that the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/169) is the thirty-fourth of its kind, which shows just how long the Council has been considering the situation in my country. It has been a rather extended period of time, given that the United Nations Office was created nearly 10 years ago, which I believe evinces the Council members' confirmed interest in my country. Unfortunately, however, it also shows how long the situation in my country has dragged on.

Today, I take the floor with a heavy heart because, as the Secretary-General says in his report and as his Special Representative, Mr. Mutaboba, reiterated earlier, tragic events have occurred in my country. The unfortunate assassinations of the President of the Republic and the General Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces were two tragic events compounding the evil that has, as I said earlier, plagued the daily life of my fellow citizens for quite some time.

Unfortunately, we face a tragic situation. But I want to assure the Council that, whatever the current circumstances might be, no one should conclude that Guinea-Bissau is a lost cause — that, despite all the efforts of the international community, we are not achieving the hoped-for results. In fact, we in Guinea-Bissau are aware of the need to ensure that the country's credibility is restored. We are mindful of the need to reconcile with one another, to establish dialogue as a means of communication, to ensure harmony among all sectors of the population — all ethnic groups, all the components of our nation.

That is why I should like to insist here that, despite what has happened, despite the brutality that has occurred, the people of Guinea-Bissau are not a violent people. Quite to the contrary, the people of Guinea-Bissau are a peaceful people who love peace and are striving to ensure that peace becomes a lasting reality in our country. Thus, I should like to ask, as the Secretary-General did in his report (S/2009/169), that these people not be abandoned, because the people of Guinea-Bissau deserve to be supported in this national reconciliation effort so that they can find their way back to the path of peace and political stability and can lay the foundations for sustainable development. We need development; we do not need conflict. We need the international community to help us face major challenges. Most of those challenges are described in the Secretary-General's report, and the Special Representative made more specific reference to some of our most essential priorities.

It is imperative that the people of Guinea-Bissau reconcile with one another. The international community and the Security Council must have a positive and immediate impact. It is essential that the Council help us, that the international community help us to create a favourable atmosphere for the forthcoming elections, to be held on 28 June, in the wake of the President's assassination.

Despite the tragic nature of the events that have occurred in my country, and despite certain difficulties in harmonizing positions, the political parties have lived up to their responsibilities. They met to take a consensual decision on the date of 28 June. It is essential that the international community help us to organize those elections. We want them to be credible and transparent and to be an opportunity for the citizens of Guinea-Bissau to decisively choose the person they want.

I should like to add that it is vital that the international community help us initiate and complete the reform of our defence and security forces. That is an element essential to peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau. We must acknowledge that the conditions in which my country's soldiers — my fellow citizens — live are utterly regrettable. I believe that the United Nations missions that have gone to Guinea-Bissau can attest to that. It is not a question of creating conditions that are more perfect than those that are most essential for any person's everyday life; it is just a question of ensuring that we, too, can create minimum living conditions in the barracks so that the soldiers, who are an integral part of society and normal citizens, can reclaim the dignity that is indispensable to any human being. When one thinks of those living in barracks that do not even have a roof, at the mercy of the weather — and the rainy season will begin soon in Guinea-Bissau — I believe that one can understand the state of mind of my countrymen in the barracks.

I believe we all agree that these reforms must take place as swiftly as possible. We have made that decision: the authorities, parliament and, in particular, the army have decided to play a critical role in this reform of the defence and security forces. So I should just like to say that there is a national consensus in this area, but we need the financial wherewithal to implement plans that we have already established in

order to create the structures essential to this reform that we are all earnestly calling for.

Furthermore, not only do we need to create the conditions essential for organizing the elections; at the same time, the Government needs to meet the daily needs of the population. I ask the Council not to focus only on the preparation of future elections: first the elections, and then we will see. I hope that, if possible, the authorities of Guinea-Bissau, the people of Guinea-Bissau and the international community can, in parallel and at the same time, also deal with obligations in other areas. As the Special Representative has indicated, the minimum conditions for normal life in Guinea-Bissau must be created.

In other words, hope must be restored to the people of Guinea-Bissau. This must be said: "Despite what has happened in your country, we have confidence in you, provided that you make the effort necessary to reconcile with one another and to establish a constructive dialogue among yourselves and for yourselves". I can assure the Council that the people of Guinea-Bissau are prepared to take that step, to make every effort and every sacrifice necessary to ensure that this credibility that we need will be restored, that lasting peace will be established in our country once and for all.

Once again, I should like to say that we are indebted to the international community for all the messages of solidarity and compassion that have been expressed to us by the President of the Council, the Secretary-General, the African Union, the European Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries and all others who are concerned about what is happening in Guinea-Bissau, in a unanimous demonstration of human solidarity. Here and now, I should like to thank all those who have demonstrated their unfailing solidarity towards a people in need, the people of Guinea-Bissau.

Finally, I should like to say that we in Guinea-Bissau will continue to create the conditions necessary for this dialogue of which I have spoken, in order to ensure that the rule of law can prevail so that unfortunate incidents such as those just referred to by the Special Representative — which could call into question the rule of law and respect for the law — do not recur and all those doubts can be dispelled. But to do that, we need functional and credible justice, which means that here too we need the international community's help to ensure credible justice for those who are to be judged and to ensure that the people of Guinea-Bissau will be confident in their justice system and can turn to it in the knowledge that it will be prepared not only to hear them but also to render justice under conditions that respect international law. As I said before, we shall continue to strive to attain a democratic State based on the rule of law, in which all citizens will be seen, inclusively, as stakeholders in the conduct of national affairs.

I reiterate that we are mindful of our obligations. I recently spoke with our Prime Minister; he asked me to tell the Council that we are mindful of the challenges we must face and that we are mindful that we in Guinea-Bissau bear primary responsibility for what happens in our country. We are ready to take up these challenges. We need the Council's understanding, solidarity and support in order to continue the task we have undertaken, so that, in spite of the obstacles, we will be able to move forward to build a democratic country and ensure that Guinea-Bissau can recover its credibility and respectability on the international scene.

I repeat — because it is important to do so — that the people of Guinea-Bissau are not a violent people. They are a peace-loving people and deserve the Council's close attention. I am grateful for the sustained attention that the Council has always devoted to my people and my country.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I am certain that members of the Council will pay due heed to the appeal made today by the representative of Guinea-Bissau to the Council and to the international community to support the process under way in Guinea-Bissau.

There are no further speakers on my list. In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I should now like to invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6104

Security Council

Sixty-fourth year

Provisional

6104th meeting

Thursday, 9 April 2009, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Heller	(Mexico)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Ebner
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Tiendrébéogo
	China	Mr. Long Zhou
	Costa Rica	Mr. Urbina
	Croatia	Mr. Vilović
	France	Mr. Ripert
	Japan	Mr. Kimura
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Dabbashi
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	Turkey	Mr. İlkin
	Uganda	Mr. Mugoya
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Sawers
	United States of America	Ms. DiCarlo
	Viet Nam	Mr. Le Luong Minh

Agenda

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Twenty-seventh report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2009/160)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

09-29835 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Twenty-seventh report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2009/160)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ileka (Democratic Republic of the Congo) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Alan Doss, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I invite Mr. Doss to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. Members of the Council have before them the twenty-seventh report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, contained in document S/2009/160. At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Alan Doss. I now give him the floor.

Mr. Doss (*spoke in French*): Today, it is my honour once again to present to the Council the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/160) on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and on the prospects and challenges of our peacekeeping mission.

In late January, Mr. Edmond Mulet, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, informed the Council of significant events that took place in the context of bilateral meetings between the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda and of the statement on an end to the war by 10 high commanders of the Congrès national pour la défense du peuple (CNDP). Since then, important progress has been made in integrating combatants of the CNDP and other armed groups and in joint operations against the armed Rwandan groups, the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR).

The prospect of an end to the main conflict, which has dominated the situation in the Kivus for almost two years now, has created real hope that a lasting solution to the problems that have plagued this region of the Congo for more than a decade will finally be achieved. The first concrete results are encouraging. A large portion of the two territories that have been most affected up to now, Rutshuru and Masisi, is now more secure. The authority of the State is being re-established there. The FDLR in North Kivu have been pushed back from several zones they occupied previously and we have seen a significant increase in candidates for voluntary repatriation. Displaced persons are beginning to return home and the Government has launched an initiative to accelerate rehabilitation programmes in order to build peace in the Kivus.

That being said, the integration process and ongoing operations against the FDLR are encountering considerable difficulties. Furthermore, tensions exist at the national level following debates on joint operations with the Rwandan and Ugandan armies, and at the local level, where changing alliances have raised concerns, in particular in terms of land disputes which the return of more than 1 million displaced persons could provoke.

(*spoke in English*)

There has been a sea change in the situation in North Kivu since mid-January, when CNDP and the Coalition des patriotes résistants congolais, followed

by other Congolese armed groups, declared an end to the conflict and their readiness to integrate immediately into the Congolese army. This remarkable turnaround was made possible by the rapprochement of Kigali and Kinshasa, and we commend the two Governments for their courageous decision to overcome their previous distrust and to focus on common interests of the future. This, along with the reversal of the CNDP's position and the abrupt change of its leadership, has opened up entirely new perspectives for the peace process. But, as with all dramatic changes, they have also brought new challenges which must be carefully managed.

The first of the challenges is the integration of the Congolese armed groups into the national army. The so-called fast-track integration had initially been a political gesture that is only now being followed up by practical implementation. Most elements of the CNDP and other armed groups have been registered, but payments of salaries have been delayed and the provision of food and ammunition for the units engaged in the operations against the FDLR has been lagging behind. As a result, some elements of the newly integrated Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) have reverted to looting or illegal taxation.

The FARDC command has, however, started addressing these issues with the assistance of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) and other international partners. MONUC provides rations to soldiers engaged in the joint operations and to those who will be sent for training by MONUC, but the Government now has to move quickly to cover the immediate needs arising from fast-track integration and to manage the transition towards long-term army reform. Secure areas have to be demilitarized by properly garrisoning contingents not involved in the joint operations or in patrolling and by deploying the police to maintain law and order.

MONUC has trained police forces and is coordinating international assistance to facilitate the restoration of State authority and the provisional garrisoning of the FARDC, which should start in the coming weeks. A significant success of the accelerated integration is MONUC's separation of almost 1,100 children associated with armed groups since the beginning of the process earlier this year. In all my meetings with the Congolese authorities and representatives of armed groups, I have consistently urged them to release immediately all remaining children within their ranks.

As the integration is ongoing, the FARDC and MONUC have launched the next phase of the operations against the ex-Interahamwe/FDLR — Operation Kimia II. In addition to providing rations, MONUC assists in the planning, ensures medical evacuation and provides logistic and fire support to the FARDC. A company of MONUC forces is also co-locating with most FARDC battalions assigned to those operations in order to ensure monitoring and to facilitate the delivery of supplies. The first objective of the operations is to prevent the FDLR from reoccupying areas where they have been pushed out by the joint FARDC-Rwandan Defence Forces (RDF) operations. Some of those areas, particularly along the border between the Masisi and Walikale territories, have seen a spate of reprisal attacks against civilians. MONUC has reinforced its presence there and continues to assist the FARDC in flushing out the FDLR in North Kivu, before starting operations in South Kivu.

The next phase of Operation Kimia II will be particularly challenging. The FDLR is spread over large areas, many difficult to access, and has moved the bulk of its fighting force to South Kivu. We estimate its strength there to be around 4,500. Operations will have to start as soon as FARDC and MONUC troops are deployed preventively to protect the main population centres. Continued military pressure against the FDLR by the FARDC and MONUC is very much needed, in particular to forestall or counter attacks against civilians and to deprive the FDLR of access to its economic interests.

Such pressure has been instrumental in accelerating the surrender and voluntary return of combatants and dependants to Rwanda. Close to 7,000 Rwandans have now returned home since the onset of the joint FARDC-RDF operations and the follow-up with MONUC. Among them are more than 500 FDLR combatants, which is equal, I might add, to the entire total repatriated in 2008. The pace of surrenders has gone down slightly, but FDLR combatants continue to turn themselves in to MONUC across both Kivus.

Along with resolving the crisis in the Kivus, the Council has instructed us to pursue the protection of civilians as the first priority of the Mission. As the

conflict between the Government and the CNDP has come to an end, protection demands are also changing. The main challenges are now to prevent FDLR reprisal attacks, to rein in undisciplined elements of the security forces, and to deal with the emerging threat of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the Haut Uélé district of Orientale province.

Those tasks are intimately linked to consolidating the integration of the armed groups, as well as to the enforcement of civilian and military justice. Police and army reform has to introduce a vetting system to progressively remove known human rights offenders and to ensure that they face justice. The timing and method of vetting must reinforce the peace process and ensure that all human rights offenders in police or army ranks are dealt with in a consistent manner. I have already broached this issue with the Government and urged the Ministers of Defence and Interior to put in place effective vetting mechanisms with the support of MONUC and other partners.

Let me add that MONUC itself is adapting its policies and practices to enhance its work to protect civilians. MONUC has been deploying joint civilian protection teams, composed of staff from civil and political affairs, human rights, child protection and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration sections. They operate in close coordination with MONUC military in vulnerable areas. Their presence and contacts with the local population have greatly enhanced our situational awareness and response capacity. During the joint FARDC-RDF operations, for example, recommendations by joint protection teams led to the short-term evacuation of civilians from areas where they were at risk of getting caught in the crossfire, thus considerably reducing civilian casualties.

In areas of FDLR presence, the joint teams have facilitated early warning and preventive deployment to avert possible reprisal attacks. We have also developed guidelines for the military units, so they are better advised on how to tackle the challenge of protection. An example of those guidelines is being distributed to the Council this morning, and I would urge members to look at that as an innovative approach to dealing with the problem of prevention and the protection of civilians through peacekeeping.

However, we should be aware that the continuing joint operations against the armed groups may lead to further attacks on civilians and new displacements. The Council must bear in mind that it is impossible to end the FDLR's control over large parts of both Kivus without any humanitarian consequences. Protecting civilians has been integrated into the planning of the joint operations with the FARDC, and we will do our utmost to minimize negative effects on civilians. However, we cannot allow those groups, in particular the FDLR and the LRA, to perpetuate their violent activities, which are accompanied by extortion, illegal taxation and an appalling level of violence against women and children. Those groups also remain a cause of concern for neighbouring States and a risk to subregional stability.

In Orientale province, the LRA's gruesome reprisal attacks in the wake of the joint operation conducted by the FARDC, the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) cannot be condemned too strongly. The LRA has dispersed into small groups that have sown terror and taken revenge by looting, raping, maiming, abducting and killing civilians in a vast area stretching from northern Ituri to the border with the Central African Republic and the eastern part of that country. Most of those attacks occurred between Christmas 2008 and mid-January 2009. Altogether, about 1,100 civilians have been killed, hundreds have been abducted and some 200,000 people have been displaced. The number of attacks has gone down significantly in recent weeks, but there are indications that the LRA may be regrouping, and a new wave of attacks in the future cannot be ruled out.

The protection of civilians in such a huge and inaccessible area is a major challenge. The FARDC has progressively reinforced its presence, and MONUC provides logistical and material assistance to the Congolese army in the context of operation Rudia II, launched to contain and to progressively neutralize the LRA. We are also establishing four operational bases in some of the most vulnerable areas of Haut Uélé. However, improving the protection of civilians will mainly depend on the deployment of FARDC troops with the necessary mobility and fire support. Furthermore, it is essential not only that the FARDC and MONUC cooperate closely, but also that there be smooth and continuing cooperation with the SPLA and the UPDF. In both operations, Kimia and Rudia, I would like to add that MONUC has urged and requested the FARDC to establish joint operational

centres so as to reinforce coordination and planning with, as necessary, the presence of liaison officers from Rwanda and Uganda.

The situation in Ituri was for several years a major focus of MONUC. Our efforts to progressively restore peace in that district have been largely successful. There are residual pockets of insecurity, but recent incidents are more a matter of banditry than a military challenge to State authority. The implementation of the United Nations security and stabilization support strategy is now gaining momentum in Ituri and, I would add, in North Kivu. It will expand the presence of police and judiciary into remote areas, facilitate socio-economic recovery and, I hope, reduce unemployment, which feeds the militia's ranks. Ituri shows us that a sustained, multipronged effort by the FARDC, with the active support of MONUC and other partners, can break the cycle of violence and lead to peace and security. That has allowed us to redeploy some forces from Ituri both to the Kivus and to Haut Uélé, and is a process that is currently under way.

Another encouraging element in our efforts to protect civilians is the adoption by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, United Nations agencies and other partners of a comprehensive strategy to combat sexual violence, which has been of great concern to this Council. The strategy contains four main components to address that scourge: fighting impunity, prevention and protection, integrating the fight against sexual violence into security sector reform, and improving access to assistance and legal services for victims. A lead entity has been identified for each of those four components, which will now be introduced at field level and implemented through provincial action plans and the United Nations security and stabilization support strategy. Copies of that strategy are available to the members of the Council and will be distributed after this meeting.

The stabilization strategy aims to consolidate the improving security situation in the Kivus and Ituri by rapidly rehabilitating basic infrastructure, facilitating the return of law enforcement authorities and, generally, State authority. The extension of State authority and basic services also must go hand in hand with labour-intensive employment programmes to absorb disaffected combatants who cannot or do not want to join the army. The armed groups of North and South Kivu have declared a total of 47,000 combatants. There are doubts, perhaps, about the reliability of that figure, but it indicates how many unemployed youths are associated with armed groups for want of a better occupation. They need to be put to work in order to avert future risks of remobilization.

At the same time, it is important to relaunch economic recovery to mitigate ethnic tensions, which could be aggravated by the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees. A prosperous and dynamic North and South Kivu can absorb returnees, provided that conflicting land claims are managed carefully, but if the Kivus continue to struggle with mass poverty, unemployment and derelict infrastructures, new escalations of violence may emanate from the underlying tensions between ethnic communities. Prime Minister Muzito has launched an initiative to prioritize interventions in the area of security, State authority, humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation. MONUC and other international partners are working with the Prime Minister in order to fund and support those priorities, and we in MONUC have realigned our stabilization strategy in support of the Prime Minister's initiative.

The peace accord signed on 23 March by the Government and the CNDP, facilitated by Presidents Obasanjo and Mkapa, has laid the foundations to settle critical issues that have long bedevilled the Kivus. These issues include community cohabitation and absorbing the CNDP's parallel administrative structures into the provincial authorities and the national security services. Proper implementation of this agreement, monitored by the facilitation, would contribute greatly to improving relations among the communities and enhance the protection of returning IDPs and refugees.

Our immediate efforts are focused on measures necessary to consolidate the peace process in the Kivus and to contain the threat of the LRA. However, Council members should bear in mind that only a profound reform of the security sector will eventually enable the Government of the Democratic Republic to deal by its own means with security threats and challenges to the authority of the State. The FARDC is only at the first stage of army integration, namely, the absorption of the remaining Congolese armed groups. It has not yet embarked on reorganizing the command structure, combating corruption, ensuring an effective and transparent chain of payments, the progressive downsizing of the army to an affordable and

manageable level, and rehabilitating military infrastructure. Most importantly, the training of soldiers at all levels is still in the early stages.

The Defence Minister has recently presented an outline for army reform to international partners, and I have urged him to convene a group of potential security sector reform partners to discuss the plan as soon as possible. MONUC itself is ready to start training for newly integrated brigades, and we intend to contribute to the planning and coordination of external support to army reform, if requested to do so, but it is clear that the Government itself has to assume the lead role in this process. I would add that this is a long-term process, for which several international partners will need to be collectively engaged, as will the Government itself.

Reforms of the police and the judiciary are also under way with support from MONUC and other partners, in particular the European Union and the United States. All three areas must be addressed and consistently pursued.

In resolution 1856 (2008), the Security Council addressed the issue of illegal exploitation of natural resources, which helps to fuel the conflict. Improving the conduct and effectiveness of the security forces will be essential to curbing this illegal exploitation. In particular, the organized plunder of Congo's riches has been going on for decades, creating complex regional networks that involve armed groups, corrupt officials and irresponsible local and foreign traders. Dismantling these networks will take time. MONUC is working with the Congolese Ministry of the Interior and provincial authorities to improve control mechanisms, including spot checks at main transit points in the Kivus and elsewhere, to help curb illegal exports. MONUC is also training military and civilian peacekeepers, as well as Government officials, to better identify illegal commercial activities and act against the perpetrators. We are also working closely with the United Nations Group of Experts mandated by the Security Council to tackle the problem of illegal exploitation and illegal arms trading.

The international economic crisis, which has led to declining demand and plummeting prices for key minerals and crude oil, has obliged the Government to revise its 2009 budget downwards. Prime Minister Muzito has told me that in the past year, the Government has suffered a 70 per cent year-on-year decline in its revenue due to the drop in the volume of commodities exported and a decline in their price. As Council members can imagine, that has had a dramatic impact on the Government budget and, indeed, on the prospects for early economic recovery.

This situation has been accompanied, not unsurprisingly, by a critical shortage of foreign reserves and a dramatic devaluation of the Congolese currency, imposing additional hardships on an already impoverished population. The Democratic Republic of the Congo requires rapid international assistance, and, to facilitate that assistance, the Government must obviously take more decisive action to tackle problems of economic governance, including corruption, and improve the management of public resources in order to sustain donor support and financial aid.

In addition, the Council will recall that the last component of the electoral cycle — the local elections — is still unfinished business from the transition. After repeated delays in the legislative and administrative preparations, the main elements, I am happy to say, are now in place. MONUC is supporting the Congolese Independent Electoral Commission in launching the voter registration update in early June. Announcement of a polling date is expected as the update proceeds, and MONUC's assistance will be required to facilitate the holding of those elections, which will involve 6,000 constituencies and an estimated 200,000 candidates.

As we are faced with these multiple challenges, I would like to express my appreciation for the Council's approval, under resolution 1843 (2008), of a temporary surge capacity for MONUC. The current situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as I described it, underlines the importance of these additional resources. I am informed that several countries have confirmed their intention to provide additional troops and police personnel. Regrettably, however, other critically important capacities are not yet in sight. Without the additional helicopter support required for rapid deployment and reaction, for example, MONUC's capacity to respond quickly to emerging threats and to protect civilian populations will be compromised. Our support to the FARDC will also be seriously constrained.

We are doing our best to focus our efforts and resources in accordance with the mandate, and MONUC has already deployed more than 90 per cent

of its troops to the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We have also thinned out considerably our civilian presence in many of the western provinces. However, the handover of tasks envisioned in resolution 1856 (2008) is hampered by the fact that United Nations agencies themselves are also largely concentrated in the East and are absent from other parts of the country in significant numbers. An effective hand-over, as recommended by the technical assessment mission recently sent to the Democratic Republic of Congo by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, requires the preliminary rebalancing of the presence and resources of United Nations agencies. We are working on a strategic workplan with specific benchmarks, which will guide the transfer of functions and the eventual drawdown of MONUC's presence. The main elements of this strategic workplan will be shared with Council members in due course.

Finally, I would like to mention that we have made significant progress in addressing the problem of misconduct within the Mission. In 2008, allegations of serious misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, declined to 56 from 66 the year before. The number of category 2 allegations of lesser gravity has also been reduced. This positive trend requires continuous training, the deployment of conduct and discipline teams in the East, and a network of civil defence unit focal points throughout the Mission, which are now producing results.

(*spoke in French*)

I hope that the strengthened security situation in the East will allow us in the near future to gradually reduce the presence of MONUC throughout the country and to prepare our departure. This year, our Mission will celebrate its tenth anniversary. In the course of the past decade, MONUC has supervised a ceasefire and the withdrawal of foreign troops following the Lusaka accords. We have created a security climate conducive to the Sun City inter-Congolese dialogue. We have accompanied the transition and ensured the holding of the first free elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 40 years, and we have helped the Government to resolve the problem of foreign and Congolese armed groups in Ituri, the Kivus and Orientale province. In the past two years, and in accordance with the mandate that the Council has entrusted to us, we have focused on resolving the crisis in the Kivus and on protecting the civilian population.

The expectations of MONUC were commensurate with the country in which we are deployed — enormous and complex — and we have had to face unexpected challenges. Often, our troops, our police and our civilian personnel have sought new approaches to carrying out duties that go beyond conventional peacekeeping responsibilities. Mobile operational bases and joint protection teams are new concepts developed within MONUC. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the commitment, creativity and the perseverance of our colleagues, in particular the soldiers, civilians and police personnel who are involved in forward-based operations in very difficult and sometimes dangerous conditions.

We are the only mission that has had the privilege of receiving an annual visit from the Council, and I hope soon to be able to welcome members to the Democratic Republic of the Congo once again.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): I thank Mr. Doss for his briefing.

There are no further speakers on my list. In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.40 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6105

Security Council

Sixty-fourth year

Provisional

6105th meeting

Thursday, 9 April 2009, 12.30 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Heller	(Mexico)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Ebner
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Tiendrébéogo
	China	Mr. Long Zhou
	Costa Rica	Mr. Guillermet
	Croatia	Mr. Skračić
	France	Mr. Renié
	Japan	Mr. Kimura
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Dabbashi
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	Turkey	Mr. Söylemez
	Uganda	Mr. Mugoya
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Quarrey
	United States of America	Ms. DiCarlo
	Viet Nam	Mr. Hoang Chi Trung

Agenda

The situation in Guinea-Bissau

Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in that country (S/2009/169)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

09-29863 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 12.30 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Guinea-Bissau

Report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in that country (S/2009/169)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2009/169, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in that country.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council.

"The Security Council recalls its previous statements on Guinea-Bissau and notes the latest report of the Secretary-General on developments in Guinea-Bissau and on the activities of the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOBGIS)(S/2009/169). The Council reaffirms its support for the continuing efforts to consolidate peace in that country.

"The Security Council welcomes the swearing-in as interim President of Guinea-Bissau of Mr. Raimundo Pereira and notes with satisfaction the commitment of the new authorities to maintain the constitutional order, following the assassinations of the President of Guinea-Bissau, João Bernardo Vieira, and of the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, Tagme Na Waie, and to deepen national consensus on the transition and the electoral process.

"The Security Council also welcomes the convening of the presidential election for 28 June 2009 and urges the Government and all political actors to create the best conditions for the holding of a free, fair, transparent and credible presidential election. It welcomes the assistance already provided by bilateral and multilateral partners to support the electoral budget, and calls upon the donors to continue to provide technical and financial assistance for the electoral process.

"The Security Council takes note of the final communiqué of the 26th Meeting of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Mediation and Security Council expressing the need to deploy military and police contingents to ensure the protection of the republican institutions, the authorities, as well as the electoral process in Guinea-Bissau. In this regard, the Security Council invites ECOWAS to work in coordination with the Government of Guinea-Bissau.

"The Security Council condemns recent cases of arbitrary detentions, armed attacks and intimidation, and demands full protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Guinea-Bissau. It urges the Armed Forces leadership to ensure that its commitment to abide by the civilian authorities and respect constitutional order is fully honoured.

"The Security Council stresses the importance of national reconciliation and the fight against impunity in Guinea-Bissau, and calls on the international community to support the Commission of Inquiry established to investigate the assassinations of the President and of the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces.

"The Security Council reiterates the importance of security sector reform (SSR) in Guinea-Bissau, and in this regard urges the international partners to continue to support the implementation of the quick-impact projects. It welcomes the convening of a round table on Guinea-Bissau's Security Sector Reform with a view to follow up the coordination and the implementation of the identified projects and programmes on SSR, to be held in Praia, Cape Verde, on 20 April 2009.

"The Security Council remains seriously concerned by the growth in illegal drug trafficking as well as transnational organized crime in Guinea-Bissau and in the subregion. It commends the joint action of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Department of Political Affairs/UNOWA, the

Department of Peacekeeping Operations and INTERPOL to help implement the ECOWAS Plan of Action against drug trafficking. It calls upon the international community to continue to support the implementation of the Guinea-Bissau anti-narcotics operational plan, as well as of the ECOWAS Plan of Action.

"The Security Council calls on the international community to provide timely and adequate support for the implementation of the Strategic Peacebuilding Framework adopted by the Peacebuilding Commission. It looks forward to a sustainable mobilization of resources for economic reconstruction and peace consolidation in Guinea-Bissau.

"The Security Council reiterates the importance of the regional dimension in the resolution of the problems faced by Guinea-Bissau and, in this regard, welcomes the role of the African Union, ECOWAS, the CPLP and the European Union in the peacebuilding process.

"The Security Council commends the Representative of the Secretary-General and the staff of UNOGBIS, as well as the United Nations country team and the Peacebuilding Commission country-specific configuration on Guinea-Bissau for their contribution to peace, democracy and the rule of law in Guinea-Bissau. The Security Council reiterates that it looks forward to receiving recommendations from the Secretary-General on how the United Nations presence in Guinea-Bissau should be reconfigured to support peacebuilding more effectively."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2009/6.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6106

Security Council

Sixty-fourth year

Provisional

6106th meeting

Monday, 13 April 2009, 3 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Heller	(Mexico)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Ebner
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Kafando
	China	Mr. Zhang Yesui
	Costa Rica	Mr. Guillermet
	Croatia	Mr. Skračić
	France	Mr. Ripert
	Japan	Mr. Ito
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Dabbashi
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Turkey	Mr. İlkin
	Uganda	Mr. Mugoya
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Sawers
	United States of America	Ms. Rice
	Viet Nam	Mr. Le Luong Minh

Agenda

Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Letter dated 4 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2009/176)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

09-30065 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Letter dated 4 April 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2009/176)

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Security Council will now being its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council bears in mind the importance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and in northeast Asia as a whole. The Security Council condemns the 5 April 2009 (local time) launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), which is in contravention of Security Council resolution 1718 (2006).

"The Security Council reiterates that the DPRK must comply fully with its obligations under Security Council resolution 1718 (2006).

"The Security Council demands that the DPRK not conduct any further launch.

"The Security Council also calls upon all Member States to comply fully with their obligations under resolution 1718 (2006).

"The Security Council agrees to adjust the measures imposed by paragraph 8 of resolution 1718 (2006) through the designation of entities and goods, and directs the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) to undertake its tasks to this effect and to report to the Security Council by 24 April 2009, and further agrees that, if the Committee has not acted, then the Security Council will complete action to adjust the measures by 30 April 2009.

"The Security Council supports the Six-Party Talks, calls for their early resumption, and urges all the participants to intensify their efforts on the full implementation of the 19 September 2005 Joint Statement issued by China, the DPRK, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and the United States and their subsequent consensus documents, with a view to achieving the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean peninsula in a peaceful manner and to maintaining peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and in northeast Asia.

"The Security Council expresses its desire for a peaceful and diplomatic solution to the situation and welcomes efforts by Council members as well as other Member States to facilitate a peaceful and comprehensive solution through dialogue.

"The Security Council will remain actively seized of the matter."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2009/7.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 3.15 p.m.